

Submitted photo

## A historical look at Sun City West

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has published a history of Sun City West in commemoration of the community's 25th anniversary. The book documents the community's first quarter century. Edited by Ed Allen and with an extensive index, the book runs about 300 pages and includes 140 illustrations, personal anecdotes and historical facts. Proceeds from book sales will benefit the Historical Society.

Thursday, August 7, 2003 THE WESTER

### When 'history' makes good reading



Jeannette Volkman, volunteer hostess at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, takes time out from her duties to brush up on Sun City West history. Volkman is reading the newly published Sun City West history book, sponsored by the Society and on sale at its headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City or at the Sun City West Visitors Center, 13823 Camino del Sol. The Society is open Friday and Saturday from 10 to 12 throughout August. Information: 623/974-2568.

THE WESTER Sept. 18, 2003

### SCW History Book sells

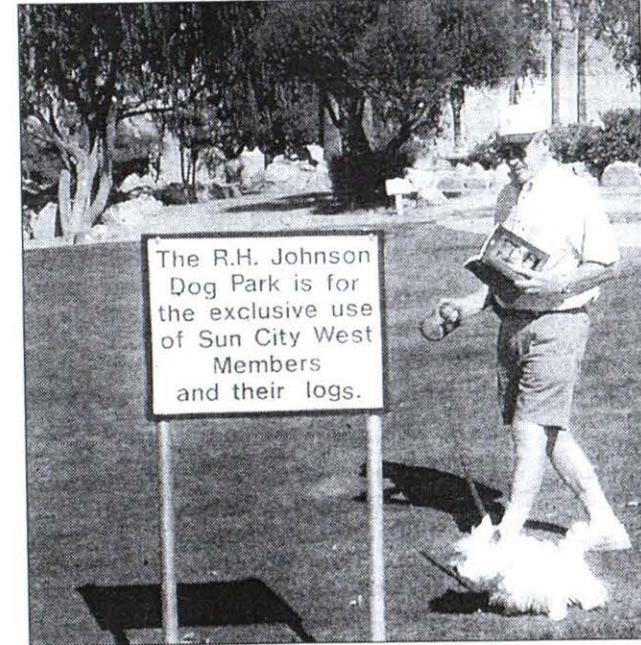


Mildred Ackley (l.) monitor at the Sun City West Visitors Center, sells a copy of the community's new history book to Sun City West Visitors Center volunteer Marion E. Bradley. The book recounts the 25-year history of Sun City West and can be purchased at the Sun City West Visitors Center, 13823 Camino del Sol or at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. The book is sponsored by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. For more information call the Society at 623/974-2568.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

MONDAY, OCT. 6, 2003

A7

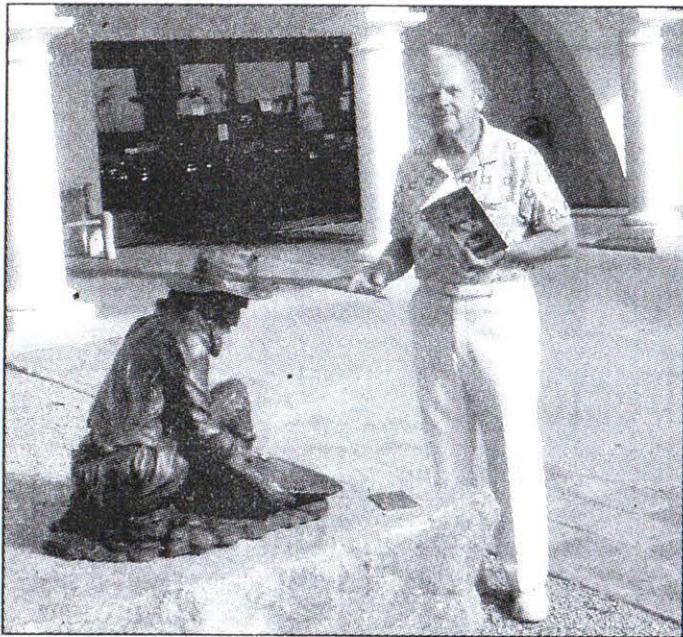


SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jack Linn reads a copy of "Sun City West Silver Celebration" while walking his dog, Annie, in the Sun City West Dog Park recently. The Dog Park is featured on pages 80 and 81 of the community's new history book, which can be purchased at the Sun City West Visitors Center, 13823 Camino del Sol, or the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City. For information, call the society, which is sponsoring the history book, at 974-2568.

DAILY NEWS-SUN MONDAY, OCT. 27, 2003

SUN CITY WEST INDEPENDENT October 1, 2003



Submitted photo

## Book for sale

The Sun Cities Historical Society is promoting the book, "Sun City West: Silver Celebration." It may be purchased at the historical society at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City. Sun City West library volunteer Walter Knecht reads the book about the formation and development of Sun City West. Mr. Knecht pauses at the library entrance to admire the bronze sculpture, "Lucky Strike" created by Sun City West resident Sam Litrenti. Call 974-2568.

● "Sun City West Silver Celebration," the community's new history book, captures the interest of Sun City West PRIDES founder Joan Barnett and Fred Hafner, one of the original Sun City West PRIDES members.

Hafner, a 21-year member of the group, still works as a PRIDES monitor every week. He and Barnett are featured in chapter 16, "The Importance of Volunteers."

The book costs \$12 and is available in the Sun City West Visitors Center, 13823 Camino del Sol, or the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

The society is sponsoring the book and is now showing a Sun City West "Silver Celebration Exhibit" at its headquarters to celebrate the community's 25th anniversary. For information, call 974-2568.

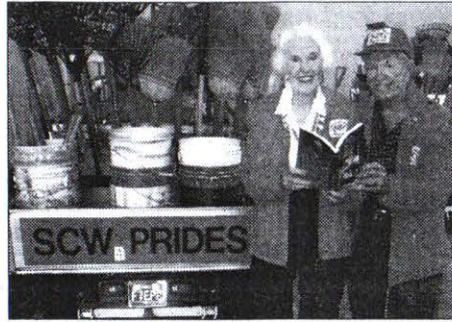


PHOTO COURTESY OF CLIFFORD SCHWAHN

Sun City West PRIDES founder Joan Barnett and Fred Hafner, an original member, look over a copy of "Sun City West Silver Celebration," a book sponsored by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society that marks the community's 25th anniversary.

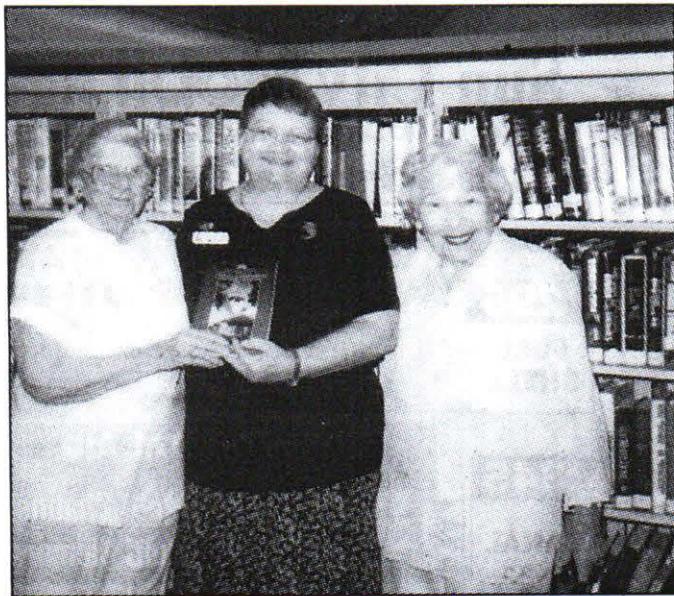
SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT November 19, 2003



Photo by Clifford Schwahn/Special to the Independent

## Book for sale

Bill Friebolin and Bob Porterfield, two of the early organizers of the Sun City West Variety Show, chuckle as they recall the "slight mishap" in the very first show on Nov. 19, 1980. The mishap is explained in chapter 15 of "Sun City West Silver Celebration," the community's new history book, which the two are holding. The book can be purchased at the Sun City West Visitors Center, 13823 Camino del Sol or at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. Information: 974-2568.



Submitted photo

### Book to borrow

Sun Cities Area Historical Society President Jane Freeman, left, and Trustee Mary Hawthorne, right, present a copy of the new Sun City West history book to RH Johnson library director Marcia Lea. For more information, call 974-2568.

SUN CITY WEST INDEPENDENT

May 7, 2003

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sun Cities Area Historical Society President Jane Freeman, left, and trustee Mary Hawthorne, right, present a copy of the new Sun City West history book to Marcia Lea, director of the R.H. Johnson Library and a volunteer there for 22 years. The recently published book is sponsored by the historical society and can be purchased at its headquarters or the Sun City West Visitors Center. For information, call 974-2568.

# Letters

## 'Silver Celebration' written beautifully

As one who was somewhat involved in the writing of Jubilee, a 25-year history of Sun City, I can well appreciate the work that went into the writing of "Sun City West — Silver Celebration."

Ed Allen and his committee are to be congratulated on producing a well researched and beautifully written history. Easy reading, entertaining, colorful and most informative. A "must" reading for everyone.

The book is available at the Sun City West Visitors Center, 13823 Camino del Sol, Sun City West, and at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society sponsored the writing and publishing of the book and recognizes the efforts of two years of work. A job well done.

**Jane Freeman**  
President  
*Sun Cities Area Historical Society*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2003

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DAILY NEWS-SUN

May 7, 2003

SUN CITY WEST INDEPENDENT

## SCW history a must-read

As one who was somewhat involved in the writing of "Jubilee, a 25 year history of Sun City," I can well appreciate the work that went into the writing of "Sun City West - Silver Celebration."

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The Sun Cities Area Historical Society sponsored the writing and publishing of the book and recognizes the efforts of two years of work. A job well done.

**Jane Freeman**  
President  
Sun Cities Area Historical Society

## Don't miss 'SCW Silver Celebration'

If you haven't read the "Sun City West Silver Celebration" history book, you have missed a good one. Congratulations to Editor Ed Allen and Jane Freeman of the Sun Cities Historical Society for a great job.

We retired here more than 12 years ago and thought we knew much of the history of Sun City West, but have both learned a lot from this book. We find ourselves checking back now and then to verify some point that might not be real clear in our minds.

What a treasure this is for only \$12, available at the Sun City West Visitors Center! Every Sun City West resident should read this one, if for no other reason than the perspective it gives us as residents of this great community.

**Shirley Knecht**  
*Sun City West*

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THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2003

DAILY NEWS-SUN

### Editor:

As one who was somewhat involved in the writing of "Jubilee, a 25 year history of Sun City," I can well appreciate the work that went into the writing of "Sun City West—Silver Celebration."

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The Sun Cities Area Historical Society sponsored the writing and publishing of the book and recognizes the efforts of two years of work. A job well done!

**Jane Freeman, President**  
SCAHS

## Interesting anecdotes revealed in history of SCW

By Beth Carlino

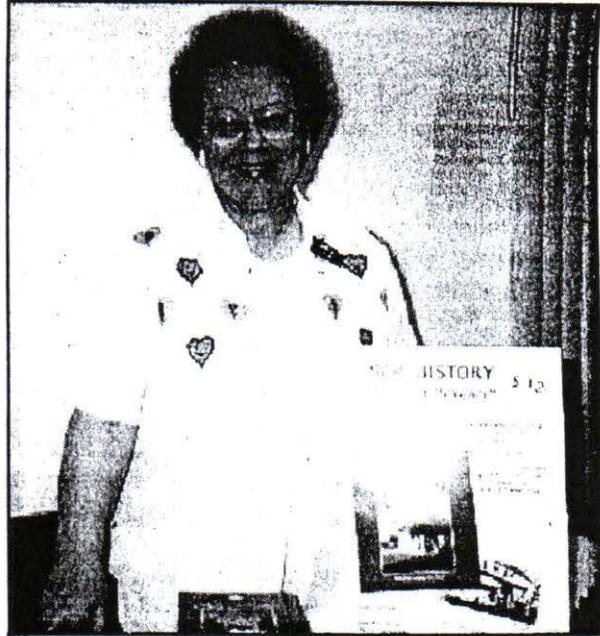
At a recent meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, it was revealed that many of the major attractions of Sun City West were built early in the community's development so as to lure new retirees away from buying resales in Sun City.

Said Don Tuffs, "SCW needed to compete with SC and to lure buyers to the new area. As a result, R. H. Johnson Rec Center, Hillcrest Golf Course, and the Sundome were constructed to draw people to Webb's newer development."

Tuffs, then senior vice-president of the Del Webb Corporation and manager of the Sundome, spoke of the outstanding programs that were initially offered at the facility: the entire cast of the Lawrence Welk

At the Historical Society's meeting, Loretta Allen displays the new SCW history book, whose editor is her husband Ed.

Photo,  
Beth Carlino



Show, total ensembles from the Big Band era, and top stars of the period such as Red Skelton.

"Audiences were thrilled at the performances and magnificence of the Sundome, whose area consists of almost two football fields," said Tuffs.

"People came from all over the country to see the performances and then were invited to view the model homes. Many sales were consummated in that way," added the former Webb exec.

He reminisced about his favorite performers. When Red Skelton was here, he always visited the hospital, and made a point of walking around and talking to residents. Revealed Tuffs, "Red never wanted to eat at restaurants, preferring to join the Tuffs family at our home for meals."

"Gerald Ford lectured here and showed that his demeanor was that of "just a regular guy."

He noted that "Steve and Edie" demanded outrageous perks and that his limo ride from Sky Harbor with Henry Kissinger was difficult because he couldn't understand his English.

His great hope is that, in the future, Broadway shows presented at Gammage will also come to the Sundome for performances which can be enjoyed by homeowners in the booming West Valley.

Available at the meeting was a new brochure written by the staff of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society which contained a short historical perspective with interesting anecdotes of the area we

See INTERESTING, Page B3

(over)

## **INTERESTING: Anecdotes in SCW history, from Page B1**

call home.

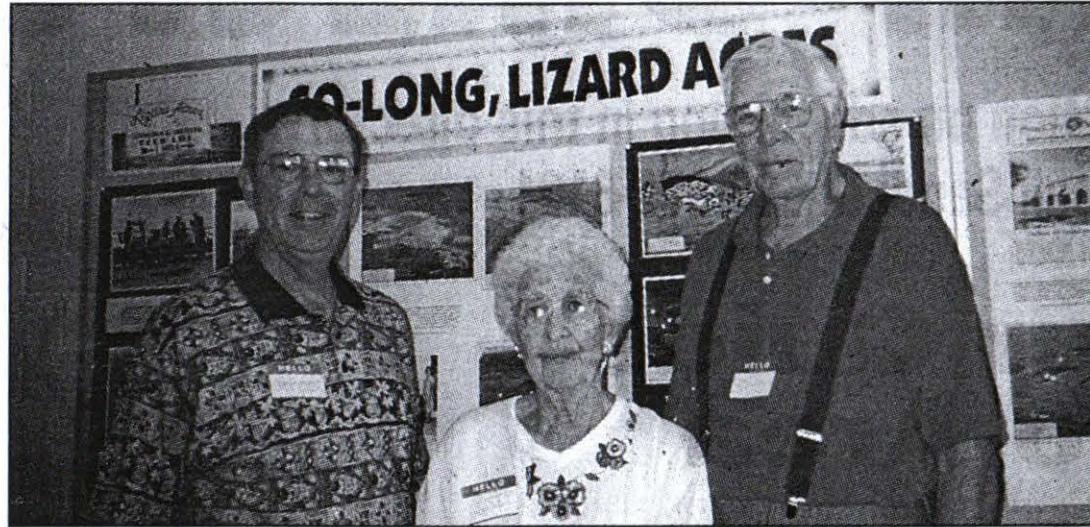
According to the publication, long before Del Webb risked a fortune proving that older people could find happiness in a retirement community in the desert, other men had gambled fortunes developing the area.

R. P. Davie, a business tycoon, tried farming sugar beets between the Agua Fria and New Rivers, naming the area Marinette. When the business failed, he sold to Goodyear Tires, and Marinette became a settlement for Goodyear's cotton company.

When cotton was no longer used in making tires, the Marinette Ranch was sold to Webb whose genius transformed the desert into the most successful retirement community in the world.

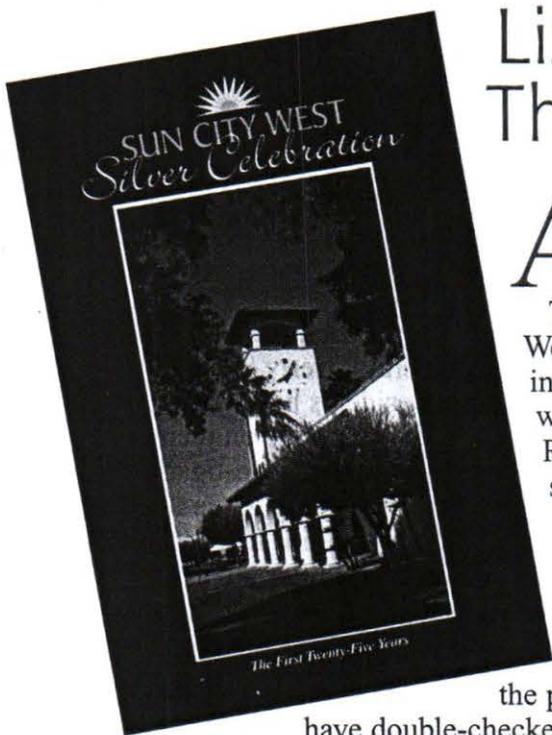
Webb's business acumen then motivated him to develop SCW. Looking at the desolate desert, an early rancher declared, "This country isn't fit for raising anything but lizards."

That area now consists of approximately 30,000 residents. For information, call 974-2568.



Submitted photo

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society features a special Sun City West exhibit for the community's 25th anniversary. Ed Allen, left, editor of the recently published history book of Sun City West, is pictured with pioneers Mary and Bill Silvis. The exhibit may be viewed 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday at the society's headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive. Call 974-2568 for more information.



# Lizard Acres to Lush Oasis – The History of Sun City West

A history project begun two years ago under the auspices of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society has resulted in an informative new book: *Sun City West Silver Celebration-The First 25 Years*.

Twenty-four chapters span the quarter century in which Sun City West has grown from “Lizard Acres” to lush oasis. Historical facts are interspersed with personal anecdotes to liven the story. Early residents will find much that will remind them of their “pioneering” years.

Recent residents will find a helpful and entertaining basis for understanding all that has gone into making Sun City West what it is today.

In 2000, two Historical Society board members, Ed Allen and Phyllis Street, initiated the project to document the 25-year history of Sun City West. Volunteers were sought to help research, conduct interviews and to write portions of the history. More than two dozen people have worked on various stages of this project over

the past two years. Many others in the community have contributed and have double-checked the material presented.

With more than 300 pages, the book contains 140 illustrations and a detailed index to help readers quickly locate subjects or persons of interest to them. Typeface, type size and spacing, and margins were carefully selected to make this as easy to read as possible. While many history works of similar scope and size sell for \$19.95 or more, this book is priced at only \$12. For the convenience of residents, the book will be on sale at the various events planned by the Sun City West Anniversary Committee.

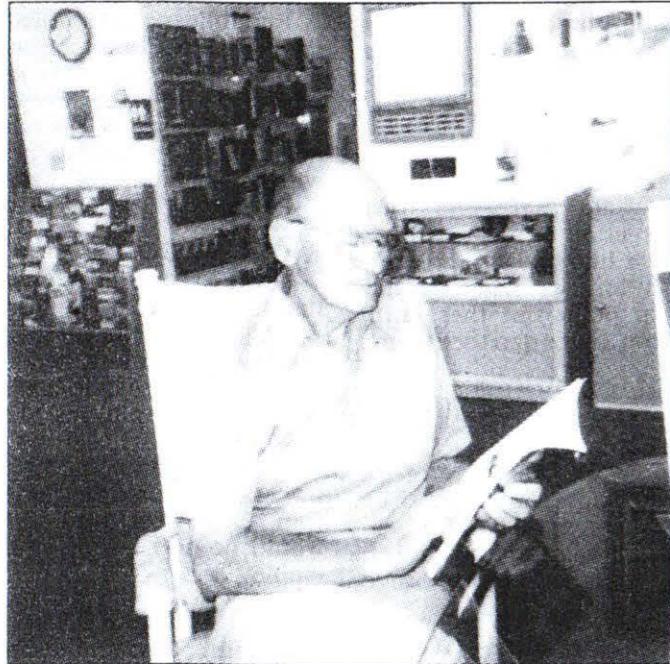
The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting, organizing, preserving and displaying the history of the nation's first truly successful adult communities – the Sun Cities of Arizona. The Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City and occupies the first of the model homes introduced in 1960.

For more info, contact: Ed Allen 623-975-1815. ☎



**JANE FREEMAN**, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Board, and **Ed Allen**, chair of the SCW History Committee, hold a copy of the “Sun City West Silver Celebration” book that has been under development for the past two years.

SUN CITY WEST INDEPENDENT July 9, 2003



Submitted photo

## Reviewing history

Al Potters of Sun City West browses through the Sun City West history book at the Sun City West Visitors Center. The book recounts the 25-year history of Sun City West. It may be purchased at the visitor's center, 13823 Camino del Sol, or at the Sun Cities Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City. Call 974-2568.

WESTER Thursday, March 6, 2003 B-1

## SCW history book sales soar

By Beth Carlino

It is an interesting experience to visit the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, not only because it is the museum which contains the archives of the Sun Cities, but also because it is located in the first model home built by Del Webb in 1960.

Kitchen and bath cabinets, even fixtures, exist as they were 43 years ago. The original refrigerator still works—its interior shelves are cast in retro bright

See SCW, Page B2

### SCW: History book sales soar, from Page B1

pink.

There is room in the kitchen for a clothes washer but not a dryer. Drying fabrics was done on clothes lines in the back yard.

Because Sun City West's 25th anniversary celebrations began on Feb. 15, special exhibits at the Society chronicle Sun City West from its very beginnings in 1978 to the present. Early residents are often present to recall their first days in the community and regale visitors with accounts of their memorable adventures.

Of special note at the Society is the sale of the newly-published "Sun City West Silver Celebra-

tion, the First 25 Years"—a history book about the community. Edited by Ed Allen, the book's contributors consist of several Sun City West residents and Society Board members who worked for two years to complete it.

Said committee member Barbara Brozman, "Because the book is a rich history of the community, it is a nice gift for history buffs or as a coffee table conversation piece."

The book may be purchased at the SCW Visitors Center or at the Historical Society located at 10802 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

THE WESTER  
Thursday July 10, 2003

## A 'tome' of the times



Al Potters of SCW browses through the Sun City West history book at the Sun City West Visitors Center. The recently-published book recounts the 25-year history of Sun City West. It can be purchased at the Visitors Center, 13823 Camino del Sol, or at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City.

## At A Glance

### SCW Visitors Center to sell history book

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has entered into an agreement with the Sun City West Visitors Center to sell and distribute a soon-to-be-released book detailing the history of Sun City West.

The announcement was made last week by Jane Freeman, president of the historical society.

"Sun City West Silver Celebration: The First 25 Years" will sell for \$12 and is expected to be available in early February. The book was edited by Edson F. Allen of Sun City West.

Center volunteers have agreed to staff sales tables at various anniversary events and locations within Sun City West. In return, the center will receive a share of proceeds generated by the book's sales.

The Visitors Center is located at 13823 Camino del Sol. The book is also available at the historical society's headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

## Newcomers first to purchase SCW Silver Anniversary book

By Joseph Kimberley

A book chronicling the history of Sun City West, "Sun City West—Silver Celebration"—went on sale Feb. 1. Recently-arrived residents, Paul and Gretchen Phillips, were on hand at the Visitors Center first thing on Saturday morning when the doors opened to be the first to buy a copy.

"As new residents, we'd like to learn about the history of the community and what went into making it what it is today," said Gretchen. The Phillips purchased their home last November having rented here for two seasons.

"Sun City West—Silver Celebration" was sponsored by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society to commemorate Sun City West's 25th anniversary this year. After two years in the making, the book now is on sale at the Visitors Center, 13823 Camino del Sol, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society at 10801 Oakmont Drive, and at the SCW Library.

The book is a beautiful presentation of 24 chapters containing 140 illustrations—with lots of



SCW Visitors Center volunteer Nancy Dewhurst (l.) sells the first copy of the "Sun City West—Silver Celebration" book to Gretchen and Paul Phillips last Saturday. The book, commemorating Sun City West's first 25 years, went on sale Feb. 1. The 300-page book sells for \$12 and copies may be obtained at the Visitors Center, the SCW Library and the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. Photo, Ed Allen

"before and after" photos. A detailed index helps the reader to find the subject of choice. The 300-page book sells for \$12.

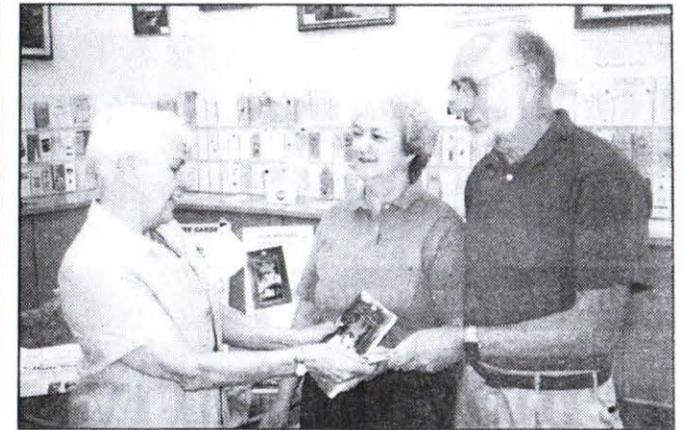
Proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit the SCW Visi-

tors Center, the SCW Library and the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

For more information, call Ed Stroming (623) 546-4646 or Ed Allen (623) 975-1815.

Thursday, February 6, 2003 THE WESTER

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT February 12, 2003



Submitted photo

## SCW book sales launched

The new Sun City West history book, "Sun City West — Silver Celebration," officially went on sale Feb. 1 at the Property Owners and Residents Association Visitor's Center. From left, PORA volunteer Nancy Dewhurst sells the first copy to new residents Gretchen and Paul Phillips. The Phillips purchased their home last November. The 24-chapter book sells for \$12. Proceeds will benefit the SCW Visitors Center, the SCW Library and the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

# SUN CITY WEST

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2003

DAILY NEWS-SUN

FROM THE DAILY NEWS-SUN FILES

**B**efore 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 is now Sun City; they fattened cattle for the market in Lizard Acre, which is now Sun City West. A sign with the Lizard Acres 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.

"They had big pens there, a little way 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 a main thoroughfare, as it had been since the turn of the century. Still, Harris said, it was only two lanes. Most other roads were dirt tracks.

Like many others in the area, Harris 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 didn'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 building the first parts of Sun City, which soon crossed Grand Avenue, then crossed Bell Road, and, 25 years ago was renewed under a new name across the Agua Fria River in Lizard Acres — Sun City West.

Clarice Uhl remembered that. So did 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.

"The shaping of Sun City West will be a cooperative venture between Devco and the new residents," Meeker said at the ceremony on Oct. 15, 1978.

He also pledged to encourage cooperation between Sun City and Sun City West.

When Sun City West started, Devco was putting up 80 dwellings a week. The community was expected to have 32,000 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.

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 Mark Wick have watched it all.

"I think it's grown into a very gracious community," Wick said in 1998 on the occasion of Sun City West's 20th anniversary.

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

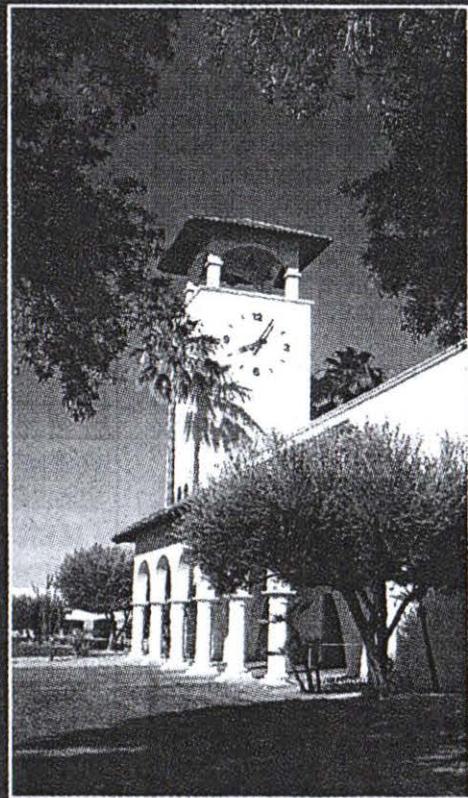
The Uhls liked moving, and liked new models, so they bought seven homes in total in Sun City West, moving from one to the other as development progressed.

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 LPG tournament held in Sun City West.

## SUN CITY WEST *Silver Celebration*



*The First Twenty-Five Years*  
EDSON F. ALLEN, Editor

SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Sun City West Silver Celebration," which chronicles the community's history since its inception in 1978, is on sale at the Sun City West Visitors Center, 13823 W. Camino del Sol, Sun City West, and the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Ave., Sun City.

25th  
ANNIVERSARIES  
SCW  
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*Silver*

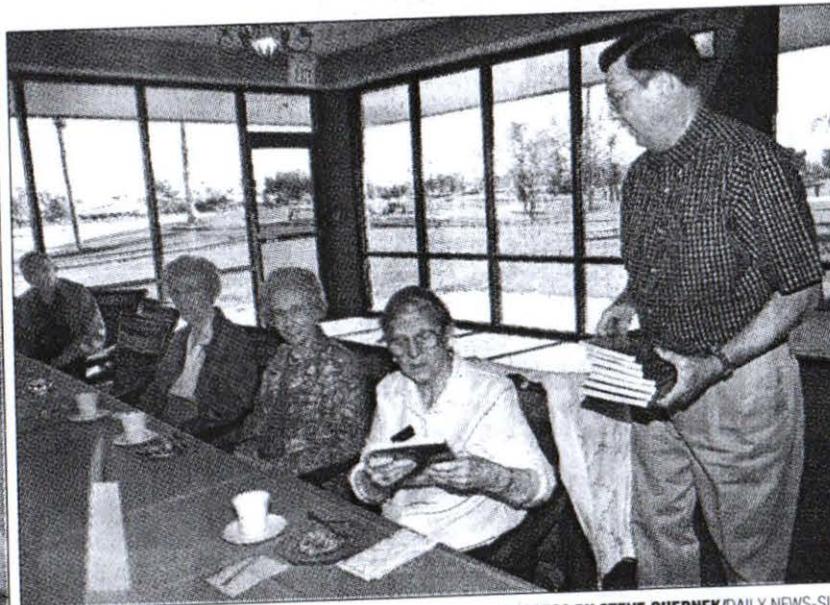
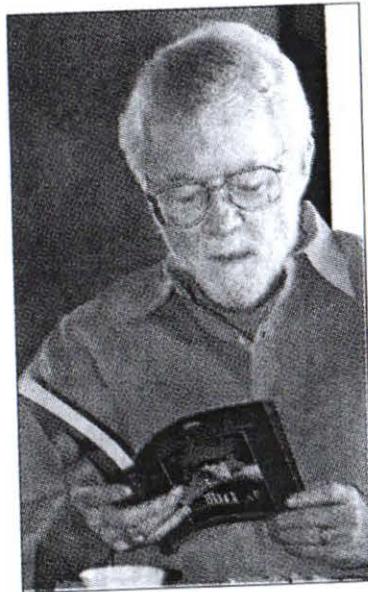


Submitted photo

### Book details SCW history

The Sun City West Visitors Center will assist the Sun Cities Area Historical Society in selling a new book detailing the history of Sun City West. "Sun City West Silver Celebration: The First 25 Years" will be available at both the center and the historical society for \$12, beginning in early February. Announcing the partnership were, from left, seated, Randy Fuller, president PORA and Jane Freeman, president of the historical society. Standing is Caryl Shafer, director of the Sun City West Visitors Center.

## 25 and counting...



Far left, contributor Larry Carlino checks the newly published "Sun City West Silver Celebration" as Ed Allen, standing at left, editor of the tome, distributes copies to Sun Cities Area Historical Society members at Briarwood Country Club Wednesday morning. Copies are available for sale at the historical society office, 10801 Oakmont Ave. in Sun City, and at the Sun City West Visitors Center, 13823 W. Camino del Sol.

PHOTOS BY STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jane Freeman (seated), Randy Fuller, and Caryl Shafer, director of the Visitors Center, sign a three-way agreement stating the terms of the sale of the new SCW history book.



## Community cohesion on history book sales

By Beth Carlino

Sun City West residents have witnessed the cooperation of PORA and the PRIDES resulting in benefits and harmony within our community.

Similarly, amicable situations involving the Posse and various organizations produce unifying outcomes.

It has been noted that this course of collaboration and support must continue in order to ensure the positive future direction of Sun City West.

And so, the parallel continues as three organizations work together for the benefit of the whole. The whole, being greater

than the sum of its parts, profits when the parts from a liaison to produce a desired result.

Recently, Jane Freeman, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, announced an agreement between the Society and the SCW Visitors Center to store and sell the newly-written "Sun City West Silver Celebration, the First 25 Years."

The book records the transformation of a cattle feed lot called "Lizard Acres" to the lush oasis that residents enjoy today. Ed Allen headed the committee

See **HISTORY**, Page 2

## **HISTORY: Book,**

*from Page 1*

which researched and compiled the 300-page book, now enhanced with 140 illustrations.

Freeman noted that this partnership benefits both parties as the Visitors Center will now receive a share of the sales proceeds to help expand its national promotion programs on behalf of Sun City West.

PORA president Randy Fuller also was instrumental in contracting the agreement.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Ed Allen at (623) 975-1815.

# Sun City West's history a page-turner

STAFF REPORT

Jane Freeman, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, has announced an agreement between the society and the Sun City West Visitors Center to store, distribute and sell the soon-to-be-released history "Sun City West Silver Celebration: The First 25 Years."

The book records the transformation of a cattle feed lot called "Lizard Acres" to the lush oasis that residents enjoy today. The editor,

Edson F. Allen of Sun City West, headed the committee that researched and compiled the 300-page book, enhanced with 140 illustrations.

Randy Fuller, president of the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association, and Caryl Shafer, director of the Visitors Center, also signed the contract.

Freeman said the partnership benefits both parties.

The Visitors Center is centrally located in Sun City West and has the necessary storage space. Center volunteers have agreed to staff sales tables at various events and locations in the community, as well as sell books in the center. In return, the center will receive a share of the

sales proceeds to help expand its national advertising and promotion programs on behalf of Sun City West.

Copies of the new book will be available for \$12 in February and may be purchased at the center, 13823 Camino del Sol, and at Sun City West anniversary activities.

Thursday, January 23, 2003

Get 'em while they're hot!



Sun Cities Area Historical Society Pres. Jane Freeman (l.) and Board member Ruth Morton unpack more copies of the Society-sponsored Sun City West History Book, recounting the 25-year history of Sun City West. It can be purchased at the Society's headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City or at the Sun City West Visitors Center, 13823 Camino del Sol. The Society has a special exhibit celebrating Sun City West's silver celebration, which can be seen throughout the summer on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to Noon or by appointment. For more information, call the Society at 623/974-2568.



## Keeping track of history

Twenty-four years ago this month Del E. Webb Development Corp. broke began work on Sun City West. The Sun Cities Historical Society has created a committee whose purpose is to document the history of the community. The committee meets monthly at Briarwood Country Club. Shown at a recent meeting, from left, standing, Ed Allen, chairman, Larry Carlino, Don Schmidt, Eleanor Anderson, Jo Ruck and John Larson. Seated, from left, Judy Schoeberle, Phyllis Street, Barbara Brozman, Dee Balaker and Betty Stoneking. Not pictured are Louis Coor, Jane Freeman, Dee Hjermstad, Barbara Griggs, Elaine McCraith-Anderson, Maxine Riffil, Jan Schmidt and Mary Silvis.

# SCW history book should be available for community's 25th anniversary

By **Jeremy Pearlman**  
Independent Newspapers

An effort to create a book chronicling Sun City West's history is nearing completion and should be ready for sale

to mark the 25th anniversary of the community's official groundbreaking in February 2003, according to Ed Allen, the book's editor.

See **Book** — Page 7

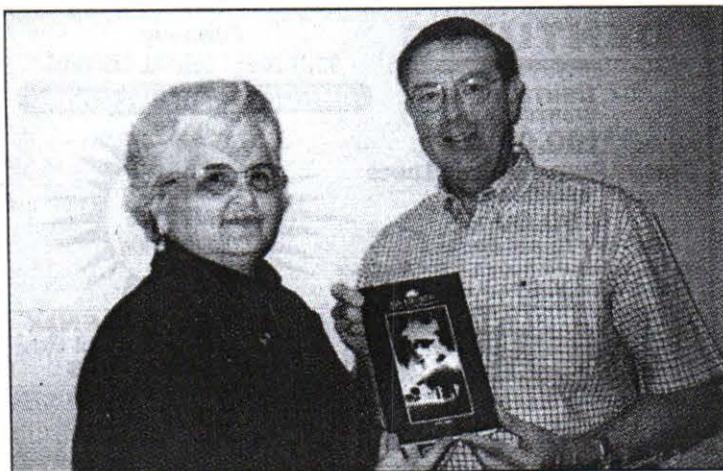


Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Independent Newspapers

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will soon be publishing a historical book on Sun City West in commemoration of the community's 25th anniversary. Posing with a mock-up version of the book are Connie McMillin, the historical society's president, and Ed Allen, the book's editor.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT December 11, 2002

## Book

Continued from Page 1

Work began on "Sun City West Silver Celebration 1978-2003" during the summer of 2000 by members of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Underwritten by the Historical Society, the purpose of the book is to document the community's first quarter century.

Since the project's beginnings, over two dozen volunteers have examined histori-

cal documents, researched community landmarks and interviewed numerous individuals to create an accurate account of Sun City West's history and evolution.

"I feel very confident that what we have in the book is accurate," Mr. Allen said.

"I anticipate people will come to us and say we overlooked this or that they remembered the history differently," Mr. Allen added. "But we've sought out lots of people on any given subject. We ran copy by a number of people in the know (to ensure accuracy)."

While the book does not detail every single event in the community's history, it provides a good perspective on how Sun City West has become what it is today, according to Connie McMillin, the Historical Society's president.

"In this fast-paced media world, the book presents a core record of how the community evolved and came together," Ms. McMillin said.

Approximately 300 pages in length, the book will include 140 illustrations, personal anecdotes and historical facts.

The 24-chapter book is expected to be printed in December and available for purchase in January for \$12.

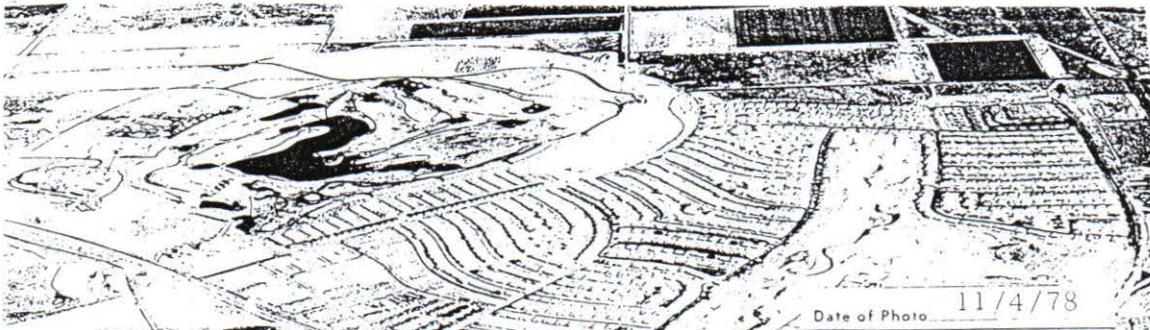
"The book is priced where it should be reasonable for most people in the community," Mr. Allen said. "We're planning to print 7,500 copies."

Proceeds from book sales will go to the Historical Society.

A complete list of vendor locations has yet to be released. It is anticipated that the books will be available at events celebrating the community's anniversary.

# THE SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Summer 2002*



## SUN CITY WEST HISTORY TAKES SHAPE

Work continues throughout the summer on the SCW 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary history book. At his summer home in Wisconsin our Board member, Edson Allen, is putting the book into chapters with the reports from the committees who are working on different sections. By E-mail, telephone, and the postal service, members of the committee are all working to make the history of the first 25 years of Sun City West a best seller!

Ed reports, "We are closing in on our goal. The book is expected to have 24 Chapters, be about 250 pages in length and contain 80 or more illustrations. Thirteen of the chapters have been completed and the remainder chapters are in varying stages of completion. Bruce Ellison, formerly with the Daily News-Sun, has volunteered his services to edit the book to ensure grammatical accuracy and consistency of style.

While an accurate recounting of history is its goal, the book will contain some very personal anecdotes from many of the early residents in order to give a more complete sense of what life was like back in the "pioneer" years. The book will also shed light on some little-known aspects of Sun City West's development. For example, the abortive attempt to sell vacation apartments as time shares, or the year that Crestview Restaurant was a Country Kitchen franchise. It will also answer some commonly asked question, giving the story behind the vacant land between the Sundome and Crestview. And, it will clear up the matter of a commuter train station at Grand Avenue and R.H. Johnson Boulevard.

There's lots more to the history of Sun City West! We look forward to having the book ready for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration beginning next February. Watch for it!"

# Group works toward chronicling SCW's history

By Jeremy Pearlman  
Independent Newspapers

With a little over seven months remaining until Sun City West's 25th anniversary observance, officials from the Sun Cities Area Historical Society anticipate a book chronicling the community's history will be ready in time to mark the occasion.

Efforts to document the community's first quarter century began in the summer of 2000.

Since then, over two dozen volunteers have sifted through historical documents, researched landmarks of the community and interviewed numerous individuals in an effort to record how Sun City West has progressed to its current state.

"We tried to gather information as broadly as possible because I personally have two concerns in overseeing this project: I want to make sure that it (the book) is done in a way that it is as complete and thorough as possible and that it is as accurate as possible," said Ed Allen, board member of the historical society and project leader for the creation of the book.

"We know we're going to overlook things but please let it not be something significant," he continued.

In an effort to be as complete and accurate as possible, volunteers sorted through 25 years of newspapers, newsletters, activities calendars, photos and additional source materials.

Others working on the project interviewed original homeowners, past community leaders, officials from the community's developer and other pertinent individuals.

Patterned after a similar book published in 1985 to commemorate Sun City's first 25 years, "Jubilee," this publication is projected to include 24 chapters that trace the pre-history of the community through the present and even look toward Sun City West's future.

So far, 13 chapters have been written and are currently being edited. The final 11 chapters are expected to be finished by August, according to Mr. Allen.

"Our target date all along is to have the book ready by Feb. 15, 2003, the 25th anniversary of the

groundbreaking," Mr. Allen said.

The book is being created completely by volunteers, residing in both Sun City West and Sun City.

One of those volunteers is Barbara Brozman, one of two Sun City residents working on the project.

"It's been fun and exhausting," Ms. Brozman said.

When agreeing to volunteer, Ms. Brozman thought she would take a few notes on some historical documents and be done with the project. She ended up doing more and, although it was time consuming work, she enjoyed doing it.

"The old newsletters and calendars are a lot of fun to read," Ms. Brozman said. "It was very interesting watching things develop and grow."

Prompting the project's creation was an article in the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's summer 2000 newsletter, asking for a volunteer to start it.

Written by Sun City West resident Phyllis Street, then president of the organization, the article recanted a dream that someone organized a group to write the community's growth.

Mr. Allen was the only one to respond to the article.

"He just picked it up and got the ball rolling," Ms. Street said. "I'm really grateful that he was willing to tackle this."

The Historical Society is underwriting the project. All proceeds from the book will benefit the non-profit organization.

Beyond the desire that the book provide a good historical documentation of the community, Ms. Street hopes that it will be a promotional tool for the Historical Society.

"It's one way to alert (residents of Sun City West) to the fact that they are part of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society," she said.

The price and all vendor locations for the book have yet to be determined.

Mr. Allen is working on a marketing plan, trying to determine ways to get the book in as many hands as possible.

"I want to make it easy for people to obtain it and I want to price it so many people will buy it," Mr. Allen said.

## Historical book committee needs help in solving mysteries

By Beth Carlino

Del E. Webb made a fortune building hotels in Las Vegas. He risked that fortune by building Sun City—taking a chance that retirees would find happiness in a desert community which featured affordable housing, unique amenities and which provided a desirable lifestyle. He was, of course, immediately successful.

Then Webb, originally a carpenter, continued to prove the American Dream existed by developing Sun City West. He thus created a flourishing community from the parched land known as "Lizard Acres."

And now, because of the genius of his foresight, Sun City West, a flourishing town of more than 17,000 homes, businesses, places of worship and health facilities, will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2003.

In order to chronicle the growth of the community, the Sun City West History Committee has been gathering research from a plethora of sources and writing a history of Sun City West. "The final product of the committee's effort will be a published book ready for distribution during 2003," said Ed Allen, committee chair.

But the committee has encountered some missing pieces, and it is looking for individuals to solve the following mysteries:

First, the earliest health care in Sun City West was provided in 1981 from a temporary structure on the site of the former ABCO supermarket. According to the first physician, Dr. Alan Miles, the facility was very primitive. Does anyone recall visiting this makeshift building? Or does anyone have a photo of the structure?

The second mystery involves Crestview Restaurant. When was it renamed "Terrace on the Green"? Was it when the Webb Corp. sold the building? Was there a reason for the change? When did it take place?

In October, 1984 (this is really

an Orwellian mystery), a newspaper photo shows a Restaurant-Bakery-Ice Cream Parlor-Lounge named GrandmaOs in the Mercado del Sol shopping center. It was to be located in the space currently occupied by Lakeside Florist, with the owner hoping to sell 35 shares of GrandmaOs in a limited partnership venture. But the restaurant never opened. Does anyone recall what happened?

If you can help clear up any of these mysteries, call Dee Balaker at 584-1449 to help fill in the missing pieces.

The history of Sun City West is scheduled for completion in time for the 25th anniversary celebrations next February. The project is sponsored by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

## Documenting 25 years of SCW



On February 15, 1978, ground was officially broken for the new community of Sun City West. Twenty-four years have sped by, and the Sun Cities Area Historical Society is sponsoring a committee to document the history of Sun City West. Committee members at a recent meeting are (top, l. to r.) Chair, Ed Allen, Larry Carlino, Don Schmidt, Eleanor Anderson, Jo Ruck and John Larson. Front (l. to r.) are Judy Schoeberle, Phyllis Street, Barbara Brozman, Dee Balaker and Betty Stoneking. Other members not shown are: Louie Coor, Jane Freeman, Dee Hjermstad, Barbara Griggs, Elaine McCraith-Anderson, Maxine Riffil, Jan Schmidt and Mary Silvis.

## Progress Report Sun City West History Book

Nearly two years of research and writing have led to a completed manuscript. Bruce Ellison is serving as editor, and has reviewed all twenty-four chapters. Bruce knows Sun City West's history from having covered it during his many years with the *Daily News-Sun*. His comments and corrections have all been incorporated and the book's text is complete.

During the research phase, many newspaper clippings, newsletters and activity calendars provided a wealth of photos of life in Sun City West. Approximately 125 photos were selected for the book. Now comes the task of writing captions, sizing the photos for reproduction in the book and locating originals.

With text and photos of life in hand, the next step will be to lay out the book. For reasons of economy, a 6" x 9" size with soft covers was selected. The twenty-four chapters will be set in the proper type and the 125 illustrations woven into the content.

A final step will be Index for the rear of software exists today One still must go n o u n - b y - n o u n , should be referenced. along with the numbers, and almost alphabetized index.



the preparation of an the book. Fortunately, that speeds this task. through the final text indicating which ones The software keeps track corresponding page magically prints out an

A high-resolution scanner will simplify the task of reproducing and sizing photos, and another computer will integrate them with the text. The final output will be a CD disk that holds the entire contents of the book, and which the printer will use in preparing his films.

As Chairperson of the Sun City West History Committee I have had the pleasure of writing many of the chapters, have integrated sections written by various members of our History Committee, which included 20 persons, and have checked content with many knowledgeable individuals in Sun City West. As a result, I have become the designated "spear catcher" for questions that will no doubt arise about what we reported or failed to cover. I look forward to that duty with mixed feelings!

We expect to be giving that final CD to a printer in early December, with the goal of having printed copies ready for distribution by late January. Watch for it—I know you are going to enjoy the story of how Lizard Acres became a lush oasis in just 25 years!

Edson Allen  
Chair, SCW History Committee

# Group works to compile Sun City West's history

Compilation expected in time for community's 25th anniversary celebration

By JEREMY PEARLMAN  
Independent Newspapers

Although the celebration of Sun City West's 25th anniversary is still nearly two years away, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society has already begun the process of creating a book to document the history of the community. A book that Ed Allen hopes will be ready the silver jubilee.

"The 25th Anniversary is less than two years away and we need to find people in Sun City West to start the project now. It will be difficult to start in 2003," said Mr. Allen, board member of the historical society and project leader for the creation of the book.

The historical society is seeking volunteers to help in all aspects of

the book's creation. "We need volunteers of different types," Mr. Allen said. "We need volunteers who like to interview. We need others who will transcribe or type up notes ... and we need writers."

The book, sponsored by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, will trace the community's evolution from before its groundbreaking on Feb. 13, 1978, through current issues that may have a far-reaching affect on the community's future.

"Roughly 1,000 residents moved in during the first two years and formed an organization called the Pioneers. As they leave us, some history is leaving as well," said Mr. Allen, who estimates there are slightly more than 300 pioneers still

See ■ HISTORY, Page 5

## ■ HISTORY

From Page 1

living in Sun City West.

Jane Freeman co-authored a similar project for Sun City's 25th Anniversary. The Sun City resident has been recruited to assist this project. "We were fools who walked where angels feared to tread," said Ms. Freeman about the Sun City history.

One of the ways Ms. Freeman will help in this project will be to, "explain some of the things that happened to us and some of the problems we encountered." She will also try to locate and to talk to people originally involved in the behind-the-scenes creation of the community.

Once completed, the history will be available for residents to purchase from the historical society.

For more information about the project, to submit any early photographs of the creation of Sun City West or to volunteer, call Ed Allen at 975-1815 or Phyllis Street at 584-0323.

## History researchers needed

February 15, 2003 will mark the 25th anniversary of groundbreaking for Sun City West. Since then, "Lizard Acres" has blossomed into a complete community of more than 17,000 homes, stores, banks, offices, places of worship, hospital and more.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is looking for individuals interested in helping to document the first 25 years of Sun City West history. This group will have access to the extensive archives of the SCAHS, and will contact clubs, churches, businesses and other local organizations to encourage them to contribute to a community-wide history. Many of the early residents still live here and offer a rich lode of personal anecdotes about SCW's earliest days. The history would not be complete without summaries of the various issues that Sun City West faced during its growth...and faces in the future. The final product of the committee's effort will be to publish a booklet for distribution during 2003—Sun City West's 25th Anniversary Year.

The committee needs a wide variety of skills to be successful. For example, people willing to interview others...to make mailings to, and to contact clubs and organizations...to review archives for significant historical items...to write sections of the history...to edit written material...to double-check accuracy...and more. In so doing, participants will learn many interesting, little-known facts about their community.

If you would like to be involved in this research activity, contact SCAHS Board members, Phyllis Street at 584-0323, or Ed Allen at 975-1815.

# SCW man seeks book help

**SILVER ANNIVERSARY:** Group wants to publish community history in time for celebration

**BRUCE ELLISON**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

When Sun City West turns 25 on Feb. 19, 2003, residents hope to note the silver anniversary with a book detailing the community's first quarter of a century.

That's what happened in Sun City back in 1985 with the publication of the 272-page paperback titled "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona."

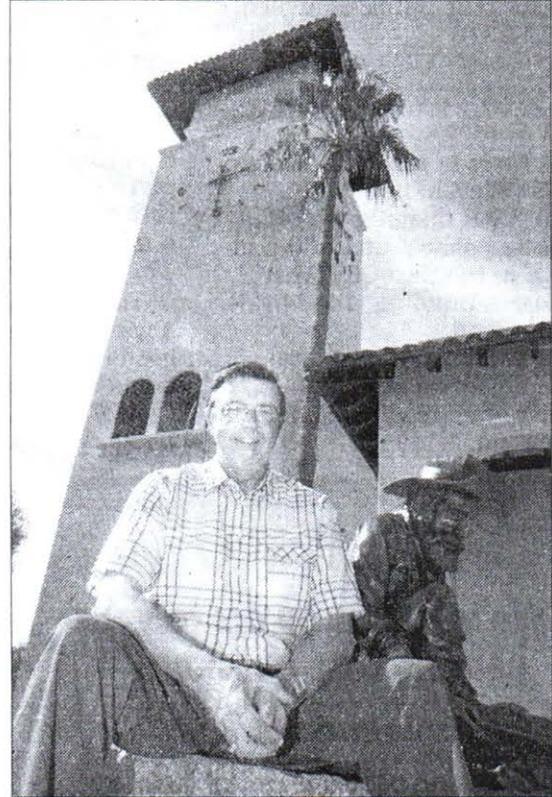
Jane Freeman and Glenn Sanberg were the principal authors of the Sun City book.

"It was a hell of a lot of work," Freeman recalled this week. "But if they have this much of a head start on the Sun City West effort, and can get people interested in the project, they can do it."

Ed Allen knows that: "Before there can be a book, considerable historical research needs to be completed."

Allen, a board member at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, is one one of those spearheading the search for Sun City West information.

"While we don't yet know what a committee might be planning to celebrate the



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ed Allen is looking for help gathering Sun City West history for a book the Sun Cities Historical Society wants to publish.

25th anniversary, we do know that we'd like to get the book out" that year, Allen said. "We'd like to document the community's history, and we'll need help from residents, from the Pioneers, from those who have records and memories."

Ground was broken for Sun City West Feb. 19, 1978. It was to be a continuation of the highly successful and then almost-complete Sun City.

Pioneers are those who moved into Sun City West in its first two years, 1978 and 1979.

"It's a club that once had a thousand members," Allen said. "But with deaths and people moving away, they're down to about 300. It's somewhat amazing that although they have good documentation of their own meetings, they have very little background on the community.

"We want to contact all the clubs, all the community organizations, the churches, the service groups, and ask them to start thinking about their history so they can make a contribution to us that will be included in the bigger book."

The book group, which doesn't yet have a name, also is seeking an endorsement for its effort from both the Recreation Centers of Sun City West and the Sun City

West Property Owners and Residents Association, two early organizations.

Del Webb Corp. built both Sun City, with about 25,000 dwelling units, and Sun City West, with about 18,000. The company now is developing Sun City Grand in Surprise, as well as other Sun City active-adult retirement communities in several states.

People interested in helping need not be historians or researchers, Allen said, "just interested folks, maybe who can write. What's best are the contacts, the idea that they may know where to go or who to ask" about some early developments.

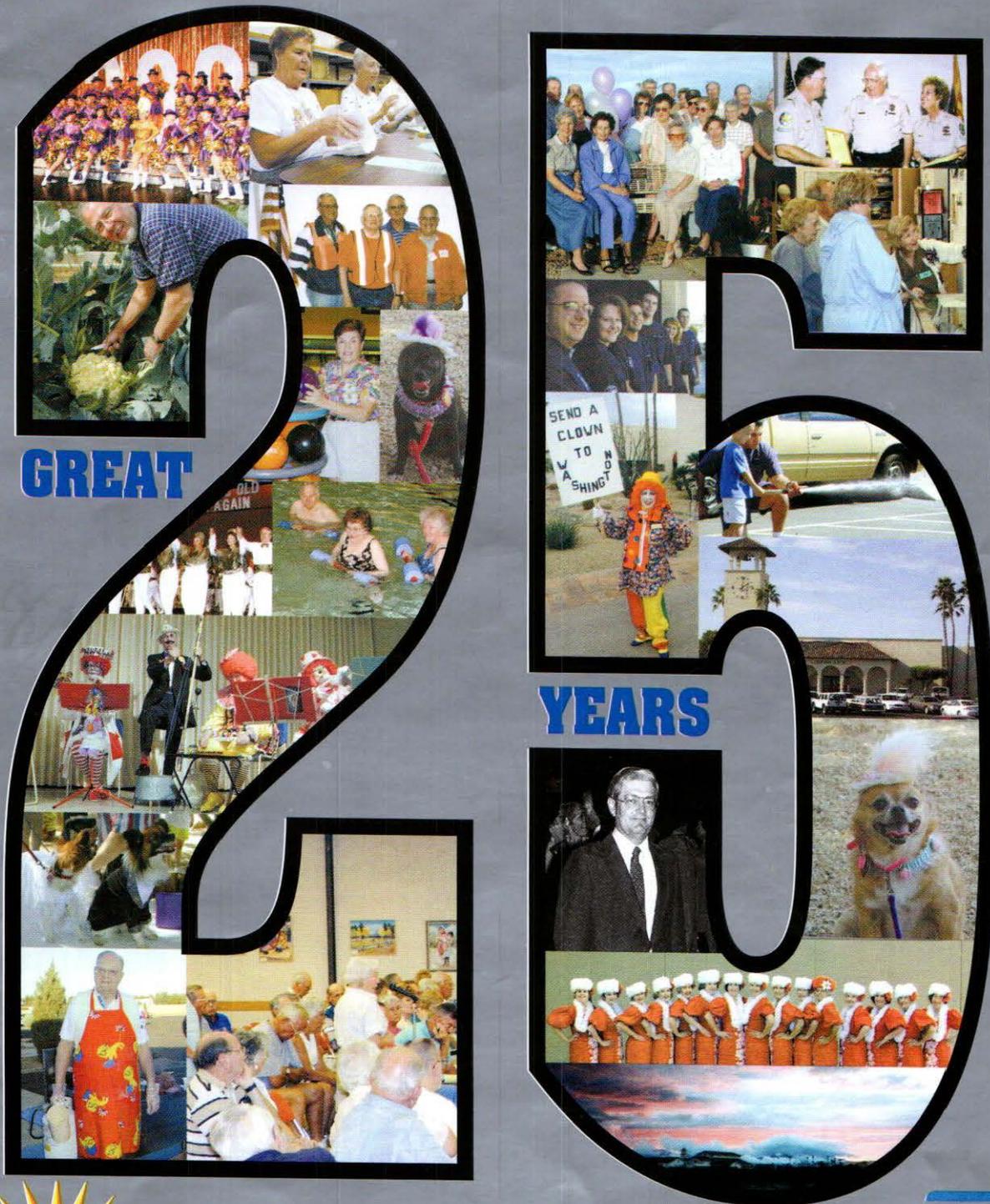
Freeman said the Sun City book, "Jubilee," was written with a lot of informal help from Del Webb Corp.

"They were under orders to clean out the junk in the main office, and they literally emptied Sun City's history into the trash bins," she said. "We grabbed that stuff up, and it took almost a year to sort it all out and make sense of it."

That situation isn't likely to recur, so the Sun City West effort will be more work, she said.

Allen is a part-time resident of Sun City West, he said. His family still lives in Wisconsin seven months of the year. But interested residents can reach him now at 975-1815, or his colleague Phyllis Street, also a Historical Society board member, at 584-0323, for details or to volunteer.

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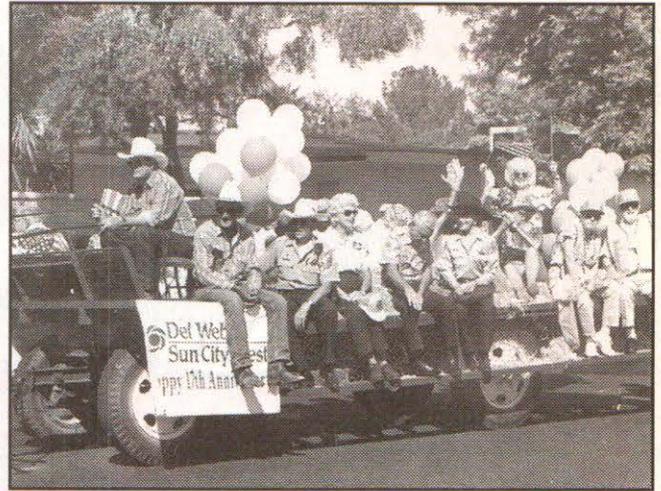
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# Sun City West Silver Celebration



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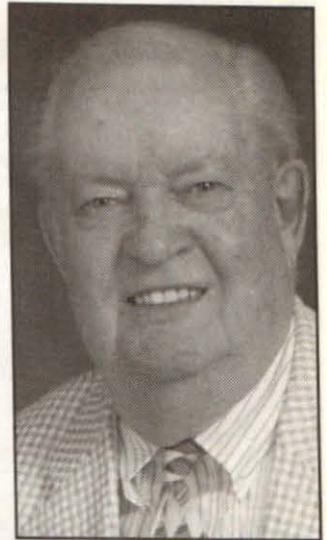
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Dee Hjermsstad

# Welcome to the Sun City West Silver Celebration



Joe Davisson

Dear friends and neighbors:

Congratulations to each and every one of you for making Sun City West your home. We are proud to live in the premier active adult community in the country.

It is hard to believe that we are celebrating our 25th Anniversary this year. Some of us have been here nearly from the start. Many more are recent additions and newcomers.

Regardless of how long you have called this beautiful community your home, we invite you to join with us in this Silver Celebration year of events.

Our Silver Celebration Committee and all the hundreds of dedicated volunteers have planned some very exciting events for you beginning with our "kick-off" Birthday Parties on February 15 at both the R. H. Johnson Social Hall and Palm Ridge Summit Hall. Stop by and have some cake, meet your Sun City West neighbors, and take the opportunity to view all the Silver Celebration items that have been created for this occasion.

We would like to thank our Steering Committee for securing the funds to provide these activities and our event chairs for bringing such joyful programs to our residents.

Special thanks to the Recreation

Centers of Sun City West Governing Board and staff, especially Elaine McCraith, Board liaison; Linda Murray, Recreation Manager; Mauryne Hall, Public Relations Manager. They, along with our Event Chair, Marge Loeffler, and all the volunteers deserve a round of applause for their hard work on this Silver Celebration project. Enjoy the parties,

the concerts, the socials, the parade, and the performances that have been scheduled for this 25th anniversary year. They are yours to enjoy and have been planned with you in mind.

Sincerely,

**Silver Celebration Committee Co-chairs**



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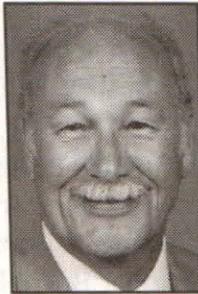
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# Sun City West Silver Celebration Honorary Steering Committee

These hard-working residents have given many years of service to the community through their participation in a variety of organizations. Their former and current affiliations are noted below:

## John Bergh

Past President: Sun City Community Fund, Sunrise Lions Club  
Board Member: PORA, Boswell & Del Webb Hospitals, SPAA  
Sheriff's Posse member  
19-year resident



## Lorraine Cockle

Board Member: Sun Health/Del Webb Hospital, SCW Foundation, PORA  
Past President Sun Health Auxiliary  
7,000 hours as Del Webb Hospital volunteer  
16-year resident



## Joe Davisson

Director Emeritus and Past President, SPAA  
Past President: Norwest Bank Sun Cities, Ohio Club of Sun City  
Board Member, Sun Health/Del Webb Hospital  
Former Chairman, Sun Health Governmental Affairs  
Director Emeritus, Sun Health Foundation, Co-Chair Sun City Symphonies Fund Drive  
30-year resident in the Sun Cities



## Tom Dickson

Executive Vice President & CEO, Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital  
Former Vice President,



Administration Services, Boswell Hospital  
Member/Past President of SCW Rotary Club  
12-year resident

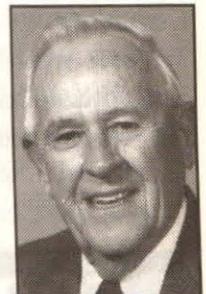
## Lenore Forti

President: Sun City West Foundation  
Board Member: PORA, SCW Community Fund,  
Past President: Lioness Club, Sun City West Singles  
18-year resident



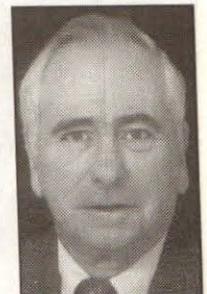
## Randy Fuller

President: PORA  
Member: WESTMARC, Luke West Valley Council  
Co-Chair: President's Council of the Sun Cities  
7-year resident



## John Galbraith

Board President and former Treasurer: Briarwood Country Club  
9-year resident  
Sandford Goldstein  
Past President: SPAA, PORA, West Valley Art Museum, SCW Foundation  
Chair: Sun Health Governmental Affairs Committee  
Former Chair: Maricopa County Planning & Zoning Commission  
19-year resident



## Dee Hjermstad

Past President: Rec Centers of SCW Governing Board, AAUW, Sun Cities Symphony  
Board Member: SPAA  
Member: Friends of the Library  
Film Selection Committee  
18-year resident



**Birt Kellam**

President: SPAA  
Past President: Sun Health Foundation, West Valley Art Museum, Rotary Club  
Board Member: Sun Health Corporation, Del Webb Hospital, PORA  
Established: Sun City West Ambassadors & the Visitor Center  
30-year resident



**Joe Schoggen**

Rear Admiral with two Legion of Merit medals  
Past President/CEO: Navy Federal Credit Union  
Former Board Member Recreation Centers of Sun City West, Sun Cities Symphony, Sun Health Governmental Affairs/Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital,  
Board Member: Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital, Rotary Club  
13-year resident



**Rae McMillan**

President: Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital, Habitat for Humanity of the West Valley  
Past President: Sun Health Foundation, Royal Oaks Life Care Center  
Trustee: West Valley Art Museum, Sun Cities Chamber Music Society  
An Arizona native



**Thomas A. Taggart**

Board Member: SPAA, SPAA Presidents Advisory Council  
Former Board Member Symphony of the West Valley, Co-Chair Swing with the Maestro Golf Tournament, Sun Health Senior PGA at Hillcrest  
Member: Rec Centers of SCW Public Relations Committee  
16-year resident



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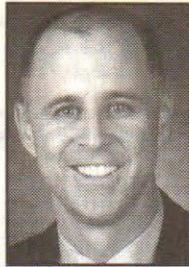
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**John Waldron**

Regional Director of Public Affairs: Pulte/Del Webb  
President: Valley of the Sun Public Relations Society of America  
Board Member: SPAA



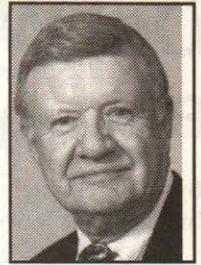
**Robert W. Williams**

Retired Brigadier General, U.S. Army  
Former Legislator: Arizona House of Representatives  
24-year resident



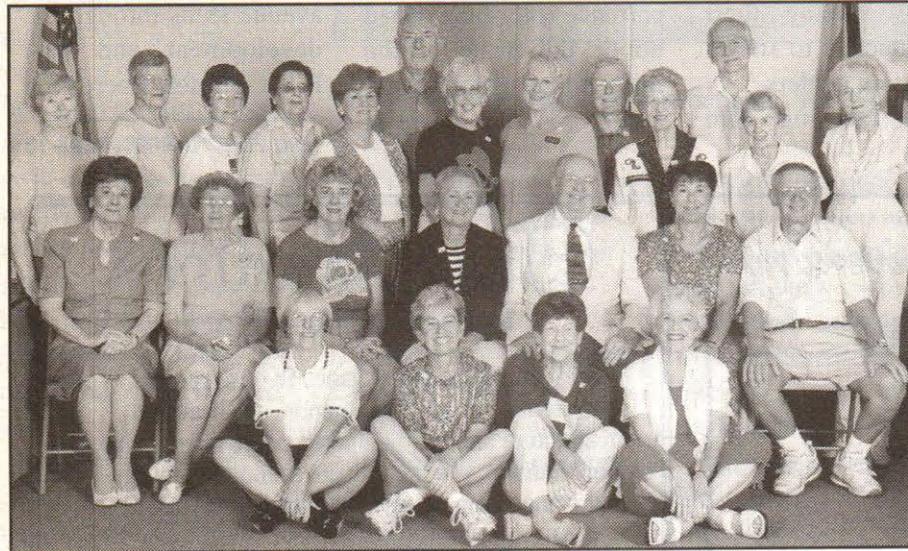
**Noel Willis**

Chair: Building & Grounds Committee of Sun Health  
Allocates resources for the Targeted Care Panel/Valley of the Sun United Way  
Former Board Member: Symphony of the West Valley  
Past President: PORA  
10-year resident



**William Woodyard**

Retired Brigadier General, U.S. Air Force  
Former General Manager: Recreation Centers of Sun City West  
Former Board Member: Sun Health Corporation, Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital  
23-year resident



**Sun City West Silver Celebration Executive Committee**

Front row, from left, Clarine Clampitt, Diane Holloway, Alice Burns, Valerie Gitter. Second row, from left, Lorraine Cockle, Elaine McCraith, Donna Potter, Dee Hjermstad, Joe Davisson, Marge Loeffler, Earl Mackert. Third row, from left, Mary Bunting, Regina Muhlenfeld, Pat Imholte, Vera Keeler, Pat Heneghan, Mary Jo Copelan, Linda Murray, Dusty Rhodes, Lenore Forti, Kay Ginsburg. Fourth row, from left, Lee Vogel, Dan Kedzie.

**Sun City West Silver Celebration Finance and Fund-Raising Committee**

The Finance and Fund-Raising Committee members include chairman Birt Kellam, Ken Meade, Noel Willis, Randy Fuller, Tom Taggart, Tom Dickson, John Waldron, Bill Woodyard, Liz Reeve-Calley, Ruth Anderson and Dick Hohnson. Members are not all pictured here.



# Del Webb and his visionaries, R.H. Johnson, Fred Kuentz and John Meeker

By Diana Shaughnessy  
Independent Newspapers

Del Webb is the name most people associate with the dramatic change in senior retirement living across the country. With the creation of Sun City, the Webb name became synonymous with an active retirement life built around a community created with that end in mind.

Mr. Webb would be the first to admit, however, that his idea of planned retirement living was given life by the talented

people with which he surrounded himself. Nowhere was that more evident than in Sun City West, which was built after Mr. Webb's death in July 1974. Sun City West, created 25 years ago by Mr. Webb's visionaries, kept alive the idea of a healthy, active retirement. And three of those visionaries, Robert H. Johnson, Fred Kuentz and John Meeker, have been immortalized in Sun City West by having their names attached to streets or recreation centers.

Those entering Sun



Photo supplied by Sun Cities Area Historical Society

**Del Webb, center, discusses a construction project with Robert H. Johnson, left, and Fred Kuentz.**

City West through the entrance off Bell Road notice the name of the main thoroughfare right away: R.H. Johnson

Boulevard. The well-kept avenue leads through the development and past R.H. Johnson Recreation

•See VISIONARIES, Page 12

*Happy 25th Anniversary  
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# Sun City West: A brief history 1978–2003

From the vision of an idyllic retirement lifestyle that began with the opening of Sun City in 1960, to the reality of the country's finest active adult community, Sun City West sits as one of the crown jewels of Del Webb's planned developments.

With groundbreaking on Feb. 15, 1978, to the first residents—our pioneers—who moved into their homes later that year, Sun City West has grown into a paradise in the southwest.

One of the factors that made Sun City West as appealing as its older sister city to new home buyers was the planning of recreation centers prior to actual housing. Even though the houses were finished first, many of those new buyers made their purchase based upon the continuing growth of the recreation centers. The R.H. Johnson recreation complex, part of John Meeker's idea making the community a premier place to live for the new generation of seniors, opened on Oct. 20, 1979, joining

Hillcrest Golf Club as the first recreational facilities created for enjoyment of Sun City West homeowners.

However, it was not just physical facilities that residents appreciated. They soon began creating clubs, joining music groups, establishing chapters of service organizations and founding churches and synagogues.

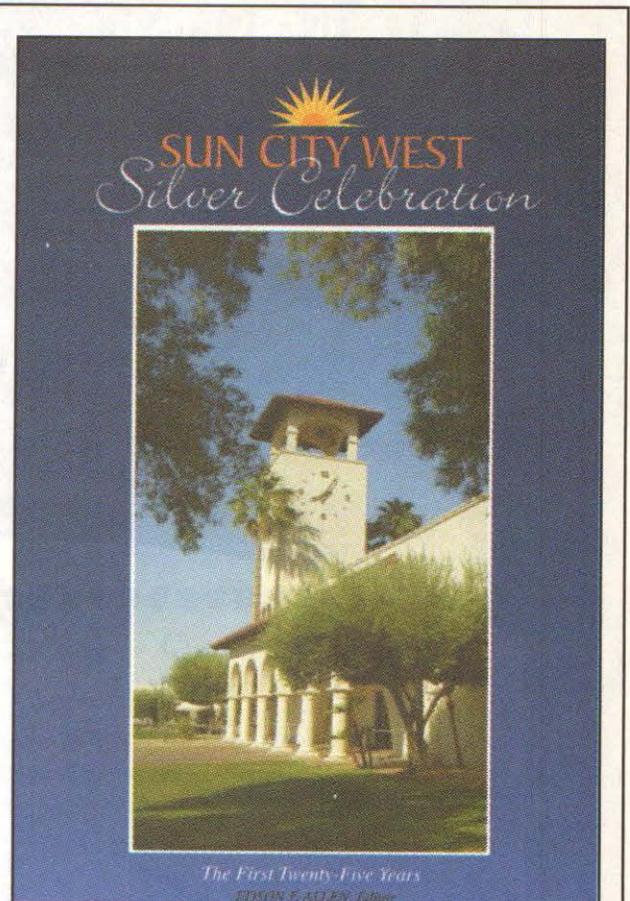
One of those community creations was the Sun City West Foundation, which gave residents a name under which they could raise funds to sponsor housing for community projects. The SCWF currently provides facilities for Helping Hands, meeting rooms, AARP Tax Services, Thrift Shop, Interfaith Adult Day Care Center, Luminarias, PRIDES and Voluntary Placement Services. These organizations allow Sun City West residents to borrow medical equipment, get help on tax preparation or go to a shelter in case of emergency.

In November of 1979, the SCW Rec Center's first golf course,

Pebblebrook, was unveiled. Eventually Pebblebrook would be joined by six other

courses for private use by Rec Center mem-

•See HISTORY, Page 11



Submitted photo

## A historical look at Sun City West

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has published a history of Sun City West in commemoration of the community's 25th anniversary. The book documents the community's first quarter century. Over two dozen volunteers have examined historical documents, researched community landmarks and interviewed numerous individuals to create an accurate account of Sun City West's history and evolution. Edited by Ed Allen and with an extensive index, the book runs about 300 pages and includes 140 illustrations, personal anecdotes and historical facts. It is currently available for \$12 at various events celebrating the community's 25th anniversary. Proceeds from book sales will benefit the Historical Society.

# History

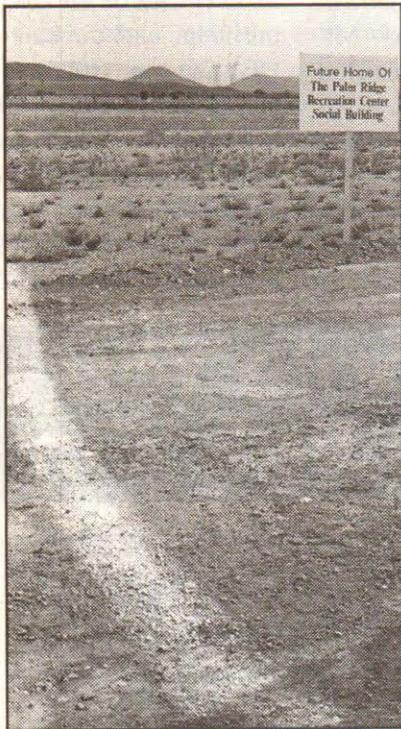
Continued from Page 10

bers: Stardust, Grandview, Echo Mesa, Trail Ridge, Desert Trails and, finally in 1996, Deer Valley.

As the community grew, so did recreational facilities. Beardsley Park Rec Center was opened in June of 1985. As more residents moved into their

homes, Kuentz Center opened. Palm Ridge was added to the Rec Center roster with the addition of homes north of Deer Valley Drive.

Today, more than 32,000 people call Sun City West their home. The community is pleased to celebrate 25 years of incomparable living in the Valley of the Sun.



Left, Palm Ridge Recreation Center began as a line on the dirt in the addition of Sun City West north of Deer Valley Road. Below: Prior to its opening, the palm trees in front of the rec center still bore their frond ties and the grass had still not sprouted. Today Palm Ridge is home to many clubs.

File photos



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# Visionaries

Continued from Page 8

Center, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Mr. Johnson was still a student at Phoenix Business College when he met Mr. Webb in 1935. He began working for the Del E. Webb Development Company (DEVCO) at that time as the timekeeper, responsible for making sure construction projects were built on time and within budget. From this inauspicious beginning, Mr. Johnson ended up becoming Chairman of the Board of Del E. Webb Corp., retiring in 1981 to create the philanthropic Del E. Webb Foundation in Wickenburg, founded in

1960.

Mr. Johnson has often been called, "... the driving force in the development of Sun City West."

While Mr. Johnson was the driving force, Mr. Webb called Fred Kuentz "... the great negotiator."

Mr. Kuentz joined the DEVCO team in 1949 as the director of electrical design and cost control. He quickly moved through the company ranks and, by 1965, was vice president of property management and senior vice president of corporation operations. When he was offered the seat of president of DEVCO in 1983, he took control of Sun City West development and was largely responsible for the con-

tinued growth of the community.

Fred R. Kuentz Recreation Center, 14401 R.H. Johnson Blvd., is named for this visionary. Mr. Kuentz passed away Oct. 29, 2001.

Visitors driving through Sun City West will eventually come upon a street named Meeker Boulevard. This roadway is named for John Meeker, who added the personal touch to the community by looking at the development through homeowners' eyes. It was Mr. Meeker who gambled on projects others thought were foolish, like creating the Sundome Center for Performing Arts, or supplying free garden plots for residents, or supplying

land at reasonable cost to churches wanting to locate within the community.



**John Meeker**

Mr. Meeker originally was Mr. Webb's golf caddie prior to World War II. He became part of the DEVCO family in 1946 as a junior clerk. After working as an operations clerk and supervisor of design and engineering, Mr. Meeker took on the role of president and director of DEVCO in 1965. He passed away Feb. 5, 2000.

These visionaries added to the original Webb idea and created Sun City West, which celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2003.



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# Making history with 'The Big Shot'

You ought to be in "The Big Shot."

At 9 a.m. March 29, the Recreation Centers of Sun City West and the Silver Celebration Committee are sponsoring "The Big Shot," the largest group photograph in history. Event chair Mauryne Hall and her committee will attempt to get as many residents as possible to the R. H. Johnson parking lot.

There, residents will be arranged in the shape of a star and photographed to capture one million years of life!

The photo will appear in the Guinness Book of World Records and will eventually be joined by

"stars" and "stripes" of people from other communities around the United States, creating a human American Flag.

The success of this enormous undertaking depends on the willingness of Sun City West residents and the dedication of volunteers from our many community service organizations.

Some clubs have issued challenges to other clubs to fill out one point of the star or to volunteer more members to make this event possible.

Many organizations are working together on this huge project: the Posse, All States Clubs, PORA & the Visitors Center, Fire

Department, Computer Club, Connections, Red Hats, Sun City West Men's Club, Wester Jesters, Desert Aires Barbershop Quartets, Westside Food Bank and Canine Companions all have volunteered.

Everyone is needed, as

a volunteer to help as an usher, parking attendant, car/van pool driver, water server, traffic controller, or whatever else is needed.

Contact Mauryne Hall at (623) 544-6133 or e-mail her at dept9@rcsw.com for more information.



Submitted photo

The Navy Sea Chanters perform at the Sundome March 5 as part of the Celebration's entertainment program

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Entrepreneur Magazine  
January 2002



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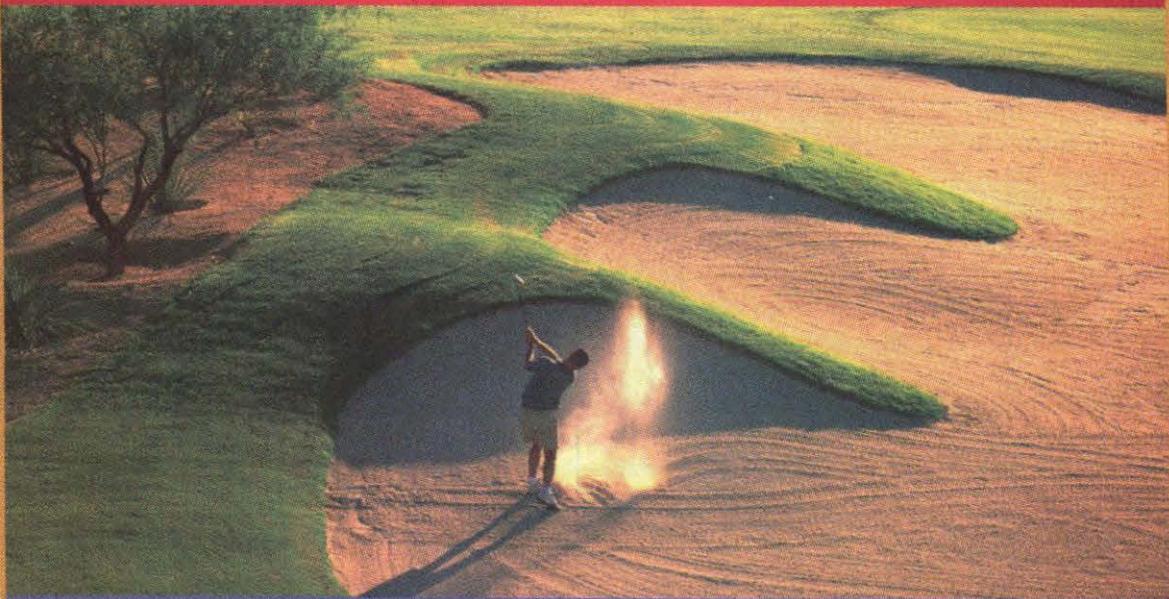
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With its many artful water features and dramatic boulder formations, Cimarron Golf Club is only the first of many exciting changes in the works at Sun City Grand. In the coming months, a new day



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spa and fitness center, outdoor swimming pool, arts & crafts facility, and several more neighborhoods will open.

We're even adding a pickle ball court. Just one more example of how we're growing by leaps and bounds to meet the growing aspirations of the people who live

here. We invite you to stop by and see all the new and exciting things at Sun City Grand by Del Webb, the leader in active adult living for 43 years. Live on.



#### Cimarron Golf Club Now Open

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Congratulations to Sun City West on your 25th Anniversary!



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## Feb. 15, 1978: an auspicious day in Sun City West history

It started Feb. 15, 1978 with about 200 ceremonial shovelfuls of soil and turned into the 7,000-acre master-planned community known as Sun City West. Now home to some 28,000 residents, more than 1,200 homes were built during the community's first year, providing homes to about 1,000 people.

Sun City West was created by Del Webb Corporation. Learning and making improvements from their first west Valley community, Sun City, Sun City West Phase I was originally planned to have "... six full-length golf courses, three recreation centers and approximately 17,000 housing units."

Now 25 years later, residents enjoy four regulation and three executive golf courses, 27 tennis courts, indoor and outdoor walking tracks, racquet and handball courts, bocce and lawn bowling, shuffleboard, billiards, softball, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a 30-lane bowling center, and four multi-million dollar recreation centers.

In addition to amenities provided by the community, Sun City West residents are



Photos from Sun City West Newsletter, February, 1979

**A special quintet was on hand for the Feb. 15, 1978 groundbreaking ceremonies. From left, John W. Meeker, Del E. Webb Development Co. president; U.S. Senator Dennis DeConcini; Hank Raymond, J.G. Boswell Co. vice president; Robert H. Johnson, Webb Corporation chairman and CEO; Governor Wesley Bolin.**

members of over 100 clubs. From arts and crafts to home-state clubs and chapters of most national and international service clubs, retirees are finding themselves busier than ever enjoying their own personal interests.

The official groundbreaking ceremony was held Feb. 15, 1978. On hand digging the first shovelfuls of dirt were John W. Meeker, president of the Del E. Webb Development Co., Senator Dennis DeConcini, J.G. Boswell Co. Vice President Hank Raymond, Webb Corporation Chairman and CEO Robert H. Johnson and Governor Wesley Bolin. Almost 200 civic and business

leaders followed, digging in on their own.

Eight months later another ceremony was held to welcome the first residents. Present at that ribbon-cutting ceremony were DEVCO Executive Vice President Joe Aubin, resident Clarice Uhl, DEVCO President John Meeker, residents Mary and Luman Wick, DEVCO Vice President and Operations Manager Bob Cannon and DEVCO Senior Vice President and Engineering Manager Tom Ryan.

The Wicks became Sun City West's first residents Oct. 16, 1978. Formerly of Topeka, Kans., the pair noted they enjoyed the area's freindly and

relaxed atmosphere.

Clarice and Edward Uhl also were initial residents of the new community. The pair moved to Arizona from Alameda, Calif.

Sales topped \$92 million during the first half of 1979. Of that amount, more than \$51 million in new sales was recorded during the year's second quarter. Over 1,250 new homes were sold during the six-month period.

Sun City West celebrated its seventh birthday Oct. 16, 1985 with the announcement that 12,500 people were now residents of the new community. Originally, community officials were aiming at a final population of 25,000.

# Sponsors: they make it all happen

The Sun City West Silver Celebration Committee would like to thank the following businesses for their support:



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## Getting ready

Sun Cities Area Historical Society board members Phyllis Street, Jane Freeman and Barbara Brozman sort through original booklets for the Sun City West Silver Anniversary display.

# IT'S THE TALK OF THE TOWN!

## Sheri Fann's Impressions Jewelry

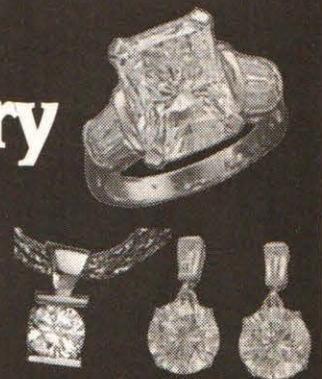
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# Pioneers and Heroes

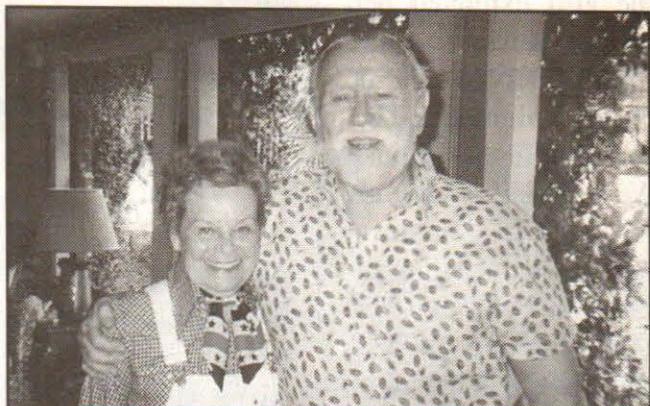
Thirty-three residents of Sun City West are vying for the title of Pioneer and Hero in a contest recognizing those who have helped the community grow. A few of the pioneers have been Sun City West residents for the entire 25 years, but most have been residents between 20 and 24 years. They came for the health and lifestyle attractions, and describe how their lives changed for the better after moving.

Winners will be

announced at the Feb. 15, 2003 Kick-Off 25th Anniversary parties at Palm Ridge Rec Center, 13800 W. Deer Valley Drive, and R.H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd. Gifts for the winners are supplied by Wells Fargo Bank: first place, \$1,000; second place, \$500; 10-third place winners, \$100 each.

Here are some of their stories:

**Chuck and Betsy Bennett** decided on Sun City West 24 years



Submitted photo

**Betsy and Chuck Bennett**

ago after meeting each other following the death of their spouses. They wanted to start their new life together in a different place while conquering

growing arthritic problems. The change produced such good health that Betsy won swimming contests where

•See PIONEERS, Page 18



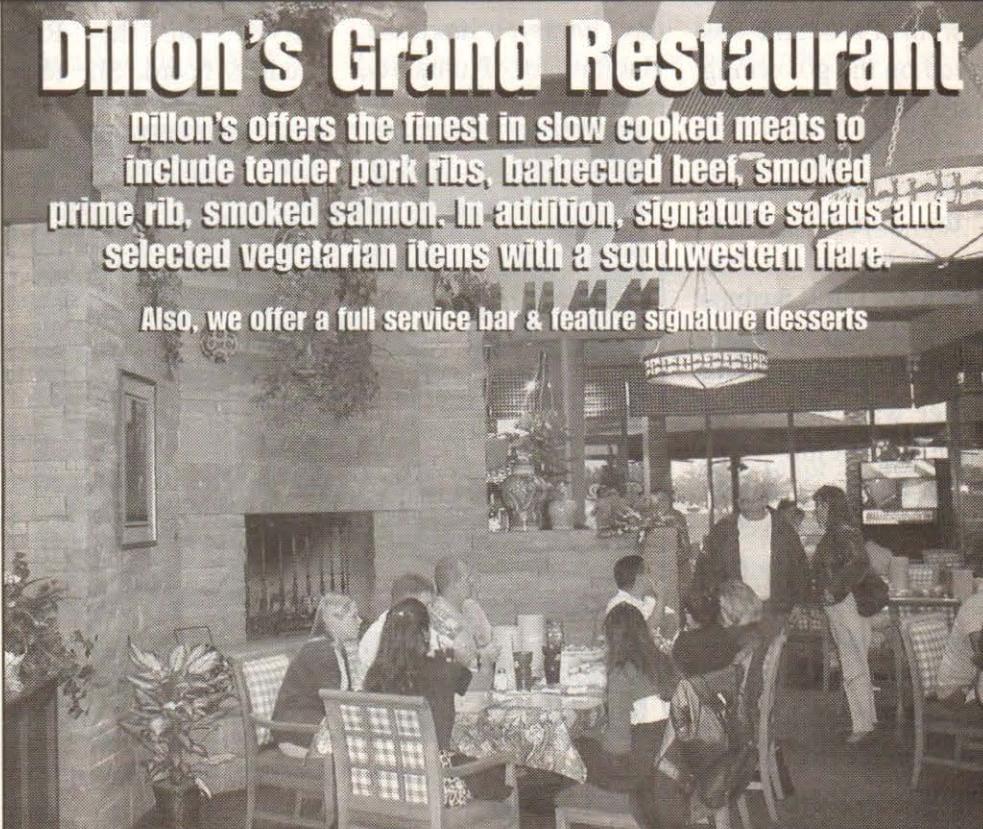
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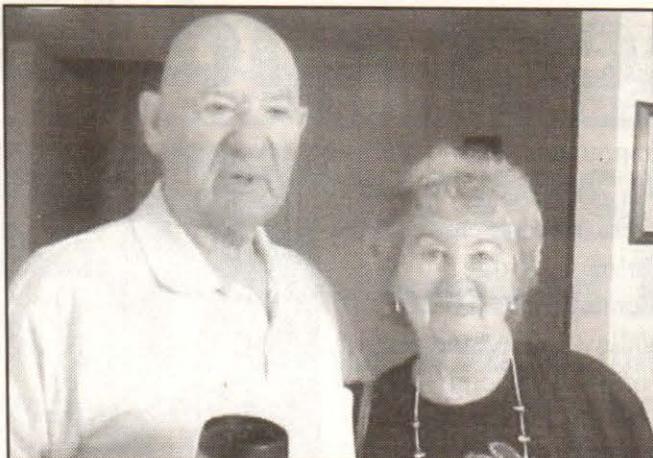
# Pioneers

Continued from Page 19

she also exhibited her famous jackknife dive. Chuck served as a Posse volunteer. The pair sang in the original Westernairs chorus, which has since changed the spelling of its name. Betsy puts her handmade dolls on display in their window every Christmas. Real lovers of their new home, the Bennetts have kept a box full of Del Webb fliers and pictures showing community activities and events since the origin of Sun City West.

**Melton Bryan** arrived in Sun City West in 1978 and has served on the governing board of PORA and several committees of the Rec Centers as well as the Sun City West Foundation. He has been a PRIDES volunteers and sold luminarias at Christmas. His mother was monitor of a men's golf club.

**Charles and Adele Frankel** moved to Sun City West 25 years ago from New York City where Charlie was a policeman. They helped start seven clubs and have volunteered at the hospital and many other organizations. Charlie was instrumental in cre-



Submitted photo

**Charles and Adele Frankel**

ating the Sun City West Fire District and is current chairman of the fire board. Adele helps at all fire district events.

**Bill and Mary Silvus** made their move 24 years ago and were active in the formation of a church golf league. They have been volunteers at the library, Sundome, Habitat for Humanity,

AARP and many other groups. Bill was the secretary of the bowling league for its first 15 years. Mary is the longest continuous member of the Crestview Riders Bicycle Club.

**Marilyn Radford** moved to Sun City West 24 years ago and has served on the Rec Centers board. She also



Submitted photo

**Marilyn Radford**



Submitted photo

**Frances Decker**

helped start PRIDES, has served on condo boards and started the singles group at Briarwood Country Club. She was a volunteer for Meals on Wheels and served on a Sun Health committee among other things.

**Frances Decker** arrived in Sun City West 24 years ago and started the Sunshine Serenaders, a group of singers that entertains in nursing homes and other places. She also has served as president of three clubs.

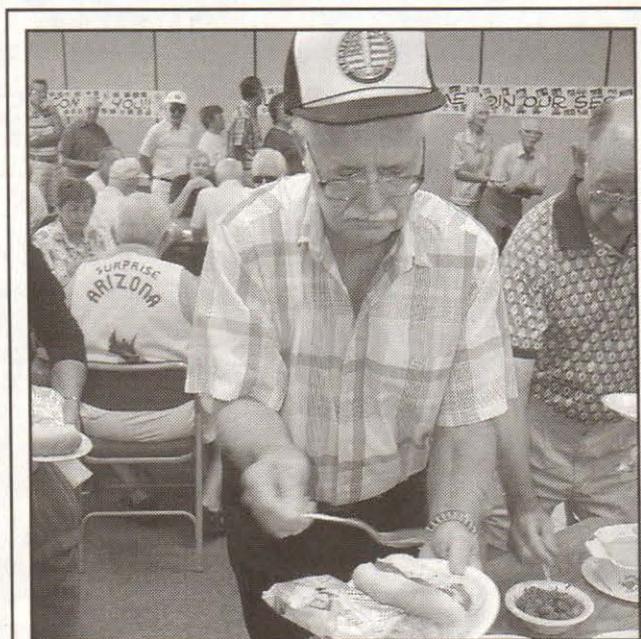


Photo by Mike Russo/Independent Newspapers

## Hot Dog!

A resident garnishes his hot dog at a Sun City West club fund-raising event.

# Church Open House

## April 6, 2003

Sun City West residents and guests are invited to visit the community's houses of worship from 1 to 3 p.m. while walking through neighborhoods during springtime. The event culminates with an Ice Cream Social from 3 - 5 p.m. to be held at Beardsley Park with entertainment by the Rhythm Ramblers Big Band.

### Church & Synagogue Locations

- A Our Lady of Lodes Catholic Church**  
1002 N. 128th Ave.
- B Desert Garden United Church of Christ**  
18818 N. 128th Ave.
- C First Baptist Church**  
17419 Conquistador Dr.
- D Shepard of the Hills United Methodist Church**  
13658 Meeker Blvd.
- E Church of the Advent Episcopal Church**  
13150 Spanish Garden Dr.
- F Lord of Life Lutheran Church**  
13724 W. Meeker Blvd.
- G Desert Palms Presbyterian**  
13459 Stardust Blvd.
- H Beth Emeth Congregation**  
13702 Meeker Blvd.
- I Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
13601 W. Aleppo Dr.
- J First Church of Christ Scientist**  
14140 W. Meeker Blvd.
- K Crown of Life Lutheran Church**  
13131 Spanish Garden
- L First Assembly of God**  
12580 W. Beardsley Rd.
- M Stardust Bible Church (relocating)**  
13845 Stardust Blvd.
- N Palm West Community Church**  
13845 Stardust Blvd.
- O Sun City West Christian Church**  
20803 N. 151st Ave.
- P Prince of Peace Catholic Church**  
14818 Deer Valley Dr.

# Calendar

## for

# Sun City West S

The Silver Celebration Committee has planned many exciting events and activities for the residents of Sun City West in honor of 25 years as the premiere active adult community in the nation! Mark these dates on your 2003 calendar. You won't want to miss them. Dates may be subject to change.

### FEBRUARY

- 15:** Kick-off Birthday Parties at R. H. Johnson & Palm Ridge—FREE  
**18:** Sun Health Seminars, Del Webb Hospital Auditorium—FREE

### MARCH

**5:** U.S. Navy Sea Chanters at the Sundome

**6-9:** Softball Tournament at Kuentz Ballfield

**8:** Sun Cities Chamber Music Society concert, 7:30 p.m. at Bellevue Heights Church, 9550 W. Hutton Drive, Sun City

**15-16:** Bocce Tournament

**22:** Silver Celebration Gala, Briarwood Country Club, \$75 per person

**CANCEL 29:** 9 a.m. The Big Shot in R. H. Johnson Parking Lot—FREE

### APRIL

**6:** Church Open House followed by Ice Cream Social at Beardsley Park featuring the Rhythm Ramblers Big Band—FREE

**3-6:** Tennis Tournament

**DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED:** Senior Golf Classic

# of Events

## the

# ilver Celebration

### MAY

- 3:** Reception for members of the Posse & PRIDES
- 10:** Silver Celebration Golf Tournament
- 15:** High Tea at Briarwood Country Club, \$30 per person

### JUNE

- 2:** Kiva West Championship Bridge Tournament
- 28:** Bowling Tournament

### SEPTEMBER

- 20:** Silver Celebration Stardust Revue at the Stardust Theatre - FREE

### OCTOBER

- 25:** Parade with bands, horses & decorated golf cars
- 25:** Lawrence Welk Personalities at the Sundome (drawing for Holland America cruise and Bromm Buick Le Sabre at intermission)

### NOVEMBER

- 13-15:** "Celebration," Sun City West annual Variety Show at the Sundome

Please note: No Recreation Center funds are being used for the 25th Silver Celebration events or activities. All monies are donated by sponsors or are being raised through the sale of the bells and car/cruise drawing tickets.

## Important Sun City West phone numbers

Emergency -- Fire or medical, 911  
 Fire Department, Sun City West, 584-3500  
 Sheriff's Posse, Sun City West, 584-5808  
 Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, 256-1000  
 Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital, 214-4000  
 W.O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, 977-7211  
 Sun Cities Animal Rescue, 872-7941  
 4-Paws Animal Rescue, 876-8778  
 Sun Cities Area Transit, 977-8363  
 Sun City West Visitor's Center, 214-8629  
 PORA, 584-4288  
 Helping Hands Foundation, 975-5499  
 Sun City West Foundation, 584-6851  
 Sun Healthline, 876-5432  
 Thrift Shop of Sun City West, 584-3869  
 Interfaith Services, 584-4999

Westside Food Bank, (602) 242-3663  
 AARP Information Center, (800) 424-3410  
 Recreation Centers of SCW, 544-6000 --  
 This number must be called prior to extension  
 R.H. Johnson Pool, Ext. 2021  
 Beardsley Park Pool, Ext. 2031  
 Kuentz Pool, Ext. 2041  
 Palm Ridge Pool, Ext. 2051  
 R.H. Johnson Village Store, 544-6135  
 R.H. Johnson Library, 544-6130  
 Rec. Centers Member Services, 544-6100  
 Golf Tee Time Reservations, 544-6044  
 Grandview Terrace, 975-8000  
 Epoch Assisted Living, 584-2338  
 The Heritage Tradition, 546-9500  
 The Madison, 584-1999

## PORA: working for Sun City West residents since 1980

The idea for the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association originally sparked in February 1979 so future residents could officially oppose a \$27.5 million bond program passed in the Dysart Unified School District June 1978 election.

The organization successfully rescinded the bond program in Oct. 1980 after officially forming in January 1980. Committees also formed to review utility rates, add traffic control signs, begin Friday Night Bingo, and to separate Sun City West from the Dysart Unified School District. It was

through the election of four Sun City West residents to the district board and a vote in May of 1981 that separated Phase I of Sun City West from the school district.

PORA also has proposed the formation of a community fire district and opposed a county landfill location off El Mirage Road north of Deer Valley Road.

Since then, anything proposed by government organizations has had an alternative proposal. PORA initiatives have been realized through the creation of such organizations as Community Fund, Meals on Wheels, the



Photo by Diana Shaughnessy/Independent Newspapers

**Millie Auxter has been a PORA volunteer since 1986.**

Sun City West adjacent to Sun City Foundation and West and establishing Lending Hands. single family home

PORA continues to support all Sun City West residents by working together with responsible public and private organizations. Over the years, PORA has been active in maintaining compatible zoning and development

deed restrictions within the community.

Those wishing to join PORA's e-mail list for regular updated information may send a letter to [pora@suncitywest.org](mailto:pora@suncitywest.org). The Web site is located at [www.porascw.org](http://www.porascw.org).

# Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital

## Responsive to west Valley needs for 15 years and beyond

More than 10 years were invested in the planning of Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital prior to its opening in January 1988. Sun Health, the community-based, non-profit parent company that also operates Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City, formulated the plan with the realization that patient-care demands eventually would surpass Boswell Hospital's capacity to serve the entire northwest Valley area. The vision was that together, these non-profit healthcare facilities would serve the healthcare needs of the entire area.

Sun Health representatives took their case before the Central Arizona Health Systems Agency in 1984. Although there was overwhelming evidence that Boswell Hospital's capacity would be exceeded even before completion of a new hospital in Sun City West — and despite endorsements such as the unanimous support of the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association — the CAHSA hearing board voted to deny the project by a narrow 5-4 vote.

Undaunted, Sun Health continued efforts to bring the needed hospital to the area. The Arizona



Photo by Diana Shaughnessy/Independent Newspapers

**Children from the Dysart school district took part in the ground-breaking ceremony for the Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health.**

Legislature permitted the state's certificate-of-need law to expire in 1985. That also ended CAHSA authority to limit ready access to hospital care that was needed by Sun City Westers and other west Valley residents.

The necessary permits at last were obtained. On Oct. 7, 1985, a colorful groundbreaking ceremony launched construction of the \$42 million hospital. Among those taking part in the event was baseball Hall of Fame slugger Mickey Mantle, a member of the powerhouse New York Yankees during the dynasty years when Mr. Webb was part owner of the American League team. The ceremony also was the setting for a special announcement by

William A. Chapman, vice chairman of the hospital's volunteer board of directors: In consideration of a \$3 million grant from the Del E. Webb Foundation, the new, five-story healthcare center in Sun City West would be named the Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital.

On January 4, 1988, the doors of Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital opened, thanks to generous community support totaling over \$9 million that helped to fund construction. Community support, from volunteers and donors alike has continued through the years during each phase of development, and it is as vitally necessary today as ever.

In recognition of spe-

cial community needs, planning for Del E. Webb Hospital also included the introduction of an inpatient, medical/psychiatric program. The SAGE (Support, Adaptation, Growth and Enrichment) Program provides medical management of the cognitively impaired patient, including assessing and treatment.

In 1996, a demonstrated need for a cardiac catheterization service was recognized at Del E. Webb Hospital. Today, the cardiac catheterization service complements existing heart services available at the Sun Health Heart Center at Boswell Hospital.

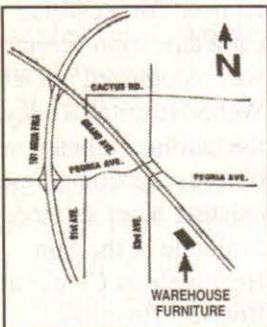
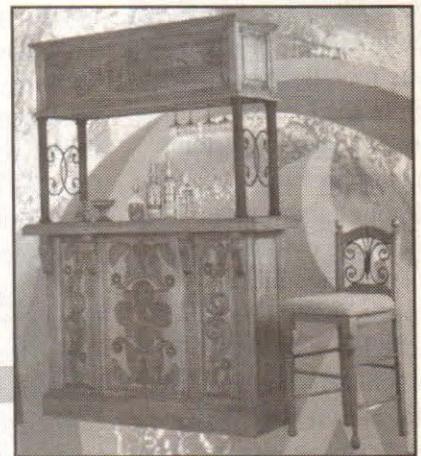
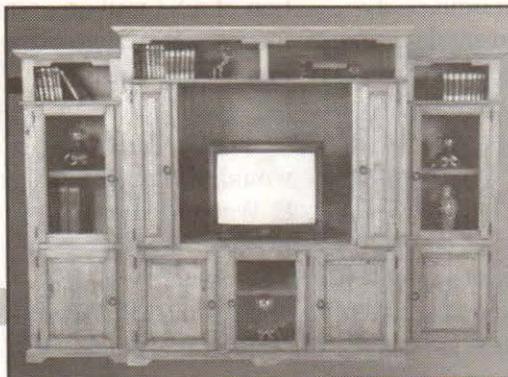
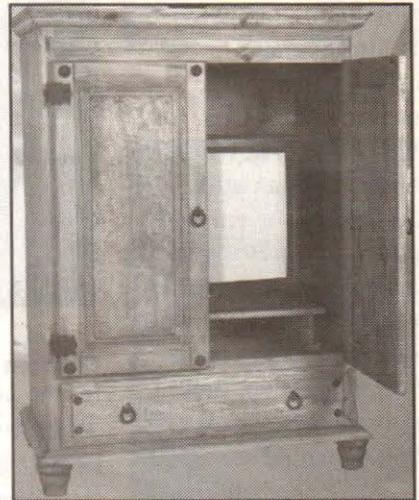
•See HOSPITAL, Page 36

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# Metamorphosis of a lizard

## From cattle ranch to retirement community

By Diana  
Shaughnessy  
Independent  
Newspapers

In early 1940, cattle ranchers E.S. Spurlock and J.C. "Charlie" Wetzler drove through an area several miles north of Peoria.

"Jumpin' Jehosaphat," Mr. Spurlock is rumored to have said. "This country is not fit for raising anything but lizards."

Tradition says that is how Lizard Acres, the nickname of Circle One Livestock Company, came into being. Lizard Acres was one of the lots purchased to create Sun City West. It was purchased by the Del Webb Corporation in late 1971 and became what is now the southeast corner of the retirement community celebrating its silver anniversary this year.

Lizard Acres was an 1,800-acre cattle feedlot, owned by Messieurs Spurlock and Wetzler, and employing Mark Gemmill as foreman. Mr. Gemmill, his wife, Gloria, and their infant son moved to the ranch and built their home at Lizard Acres,

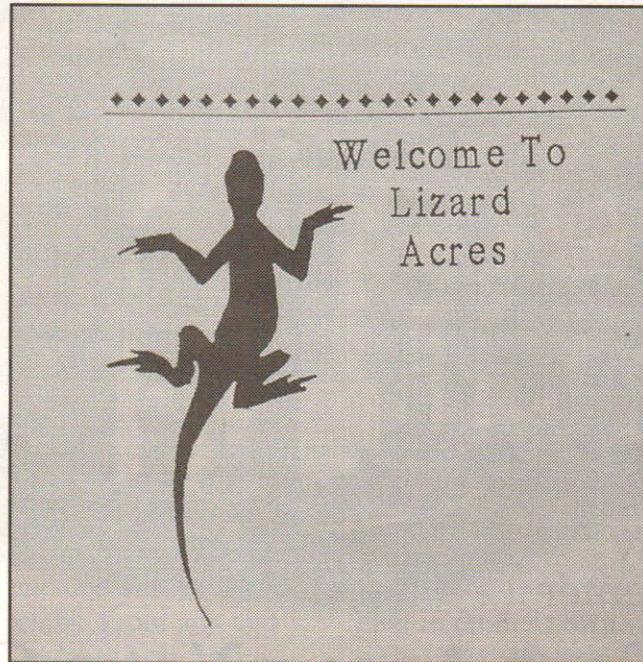


Photo supplied by Sun Cities Area Historical Society

**This is the sign that greeted visitors to the original Lizard Acres, which eventually became part of Sun City West. The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has information about this early Arizona feedlot.**

one of three main houses and a dozen trailers that housed the 45 employees working there at the ranch's peak.

Cattle were fed out on 800 acres, while corn, alfalfa, wheat, vegetables and fruit were grown on the remaining 1,000 acres. Grain sorghum, also grown on the property, became silage to further fatten the cattle before selling them to local grocery stores for butcher and sale. In its 30 years of operation, Lizard Acres housed up

to 25,000 head at a time.

Dick Mastin, who worked for Del Webb Corporation, had fond memories of his dealings with the Lizard Acres ranchers. He

recalled Mr. Wetzler climbing out of his brand-new car with boots covered in cow manure. He also spoke of moving dirt with "...over 30 scrapers working to move 45,000 cubic yards of dirt, some generated from the demolition of Lizard Acres."

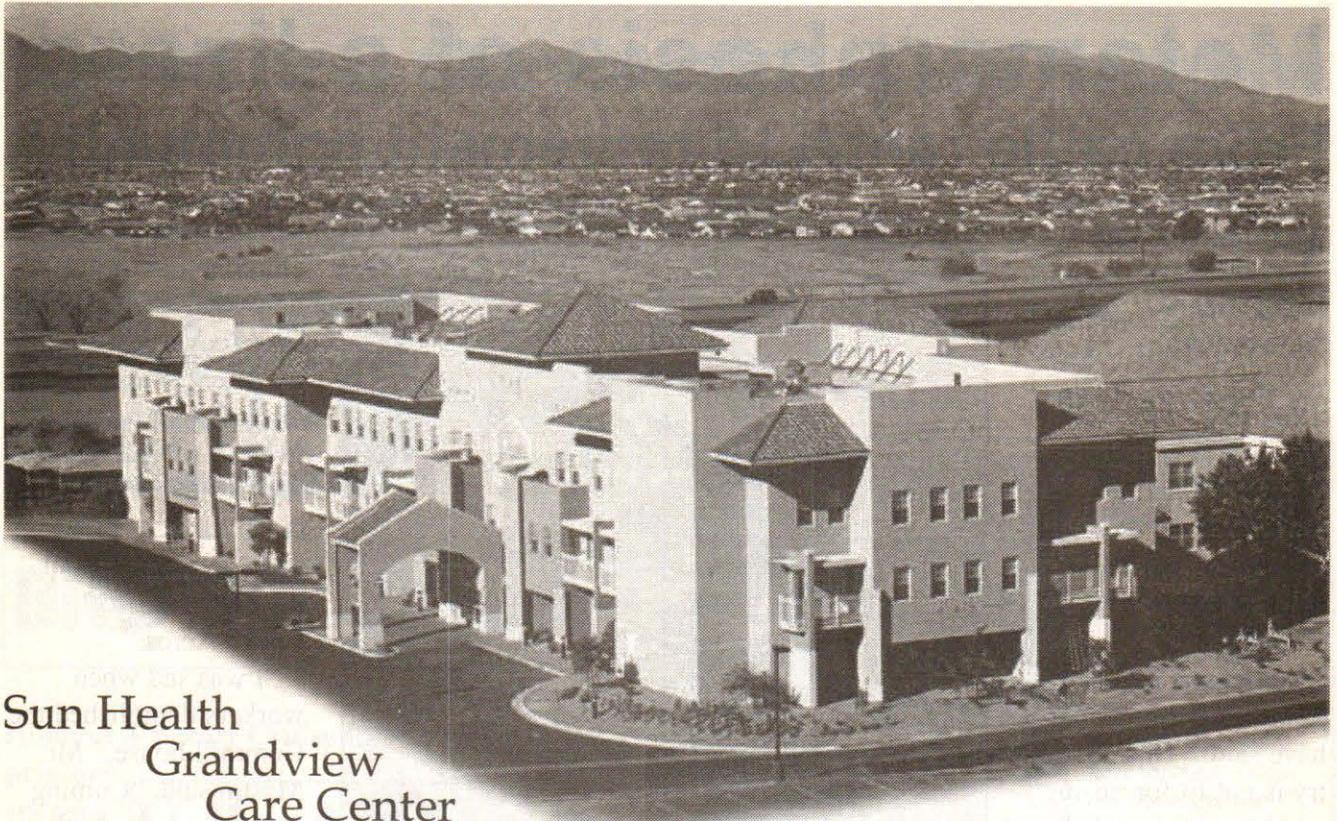
"I was sad when workers demolished the Gemmill house," Mr. Mastin said. "Coming from a farming background, I knew how much work it was."

The Gemmill family had lived in the Lizard Acres house for 30 years before moving to make room for the new retirement community of Sun City West.

The legacy remains: three irrigation and two domestic wells still provide water for the community.

### Man of the Year, 1959

Charlie Wetzler, one of the owners of Lizard Acres, came from a pioneering Arizona family. His grandfather, I.E. Solomon, founded the Gila Valley Bank in 1899. The bank was a forerunner of Valley National Bank, which eventually became Bank One. Mr. Wetzler, who worked cattle since 1920, was selected Man of the Year in Arizona Agriculture in 1959 for his innovative farm design at Lizard Acres.



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# Briarwood Country Club

The jewel of Sun City West's golfing and social community

With more sunny days than almost any other area of the country, it makes sense that people looking for some of the best golf and active lifestyle flock to the Valley of the Sun. The area is home to hundreds of beautiful golf courses, and many communities have embraced the sport as their social centers.

One of these areas is Sun City West, an active adult community located in the northwest part of the valley with a population of approximately 31,000. You will find a total of nine golf courses within the Sun City West limits. Many would agree that the jewel of the community is Briarwood Country Club, a friendly, adult, member-owned private country club.

Briarwood is a progressive club and is continually enhancing the facility. The clubhouse was recently enhanced with a 2,000 square-foot glass-enclosed multi-purpose room. The Cactus Grill is Briarwood's clubhouse restaurant, where casual fare rivals any



Submitted photo

**A friendly, member-owned private country club, Briarwood boasts a nine-hole course, The Cactus Grill restaurant and several rooms that can accommodate the needs of groups from 10 to 500.**

highly successful bar and grill-type chain restaurant. It boasts an outstanding executive chef, in addition to two executive sous chefs. Daily specials and holiday menus, as well as food and beverage for special events are created to delight the palates of members and their guests. The Grand Canyon Room and several smaller rooms can be reserved for special occasions meeting the needs of groups from 10 to 500.

Golfing at Briarwood Country Club is something of a dream. The club does about 36,000 rounds of golf per year,

making playing a round of golf simple for members. In fact, Briarwood plays only foursomes and proprietary members have access at will. Most members have their own golf carts,

which gives them the ability to play as many holes as they would like at virtually any time.

Briarwood Country Club is located at 20800 N. 135th Ave. in Sun City West.



Submitted photo

**Elegant dining is the norm at Briarwood's Cactus Grill.**

# Flying the colors

When American Legion Post 94 member Lloyd Kilmer moved to Sun City West from Omaha, Neb. in 1986, he was told the city "... had anything anyone would want." So when the first national holiday arrived, he told his wife he was going to take a walk to look at the flags.

"I went up and down R.H. Johnson Boulevard and didn't see a single one," he said.

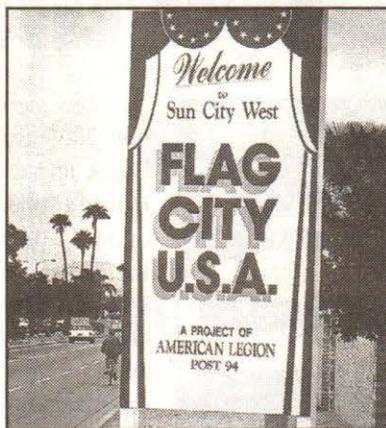
That walk started a plan in Mr. Kilmer's mind, a plan with a vision of flags flying all along Sun City West's main thoroughfare.

The plan came to

fruition in 1987. After discussing it with his American Legion Post and being asked to organize the project, Mr. Kilmer contacted Arizona Public Service to gain permission to install flag brackets onto Sun City West lightpoles.

"APS had never received such a request," Mr. Kilmer recalled. "There was quite a discussion, but it was allowed."

Funds to purchase the original 100 flags were received from individuals and businesses. The flags came from Sen. John McCain, who made sure they were flown over the



Sun City West, Flag City U.S.A as proclaimed by Governor Rose Mofford.

Photo by Bret McKean Independent Newspapers

nation's capitol before heading out to Sun City West.

The original Boulevard of Flags became a reality on President's Day, 1988. Five additional holidays, including Flag Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of

July, Labor Day and Veterans Day, also were designated as flag-flying occasions. Gov. Rose Mofford recognized Sun City West as a Flag City U.S.A., and for awhile

•See FLAGS, Page 37

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# Win a new 2003 Buick and a cruise for two



Above, Ed Hunt, far right, of Bromm Buick and anniversary officials Tom Taggart and Joe Davison hold tickets for chances to win the 2003 Buick Le Sabre, donated by Bromm Buick for the Sun City West Silver Celebration. Below, the winning ticket?

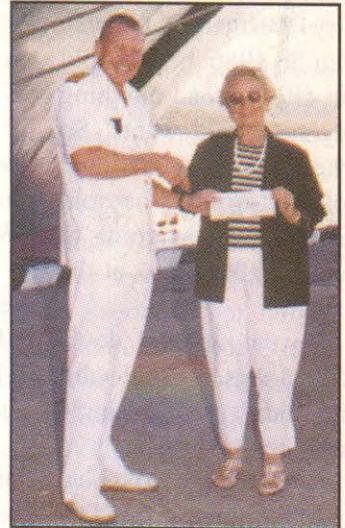


Tickets are on sale to win a special edition 2003 Buick Le Sabre from Bromm Buick and a luxury cruise for two from Holland America. The tickets are \$50 each or 3 for \$100 and may be obtained by calling Ticket Chairman Tom Taggart at (623) 584-7235. We are glad to accept your cash, check, or credit card for the drawing tickets.

A maximum of 3,000 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held on Oct. 25, 2003 at the Welk Personalities Concert at the Sundome. Winners need not be present to win.

Your 2003 Buick includes 500 gallons of gasoline from Mike's Union 76 at Boswell and Bell roads, and 60 free car washes from Super Wash on Camino Del Sol.

The cruise package also includes round-trip airport transportation and airfare donated by Ford Travel.



Dee Hjermsstad, right, accepts cruise tickets from the Holland American Line ship captain for the Silver Celebration drawing.

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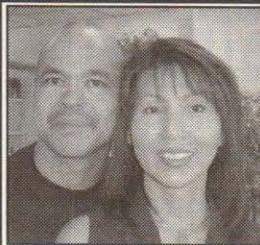
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# Remember the Silver Celebration

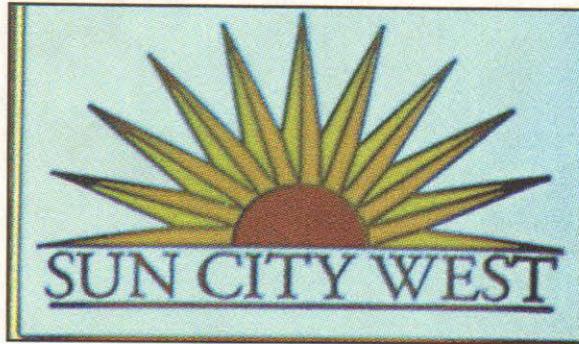


## Silver Bells

A beautiful engraved silver commemorative bell designed for Sun City West's 25th Anniversary stands 5 inches high and is 3.2 inches at the base. It boasts a lovely golden bow and a silvery cord for hanging.

The bells will be available for sale at the Feb. 15 Birthday Parties and at most Silver Celebration events throughout the year. But hurry, as quantities are limited. The cost of each bell (including tax) is \$11 and all proceeds go to the R. H. Johnson Library.

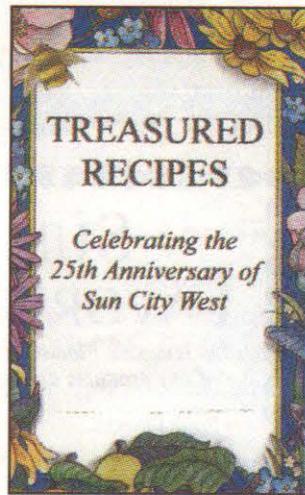
**Please note: No Recreation Center funds are being used for the 25th Silver Celebration events or activities. All monies are donated by sponsors or are being raised through the sale of the bells and car/cruise drawing tickets.**



## Lapel Pins

A lovely enameled lapel pin celebrating Sun City West's 25th anniversary is now available. The pins will be sold at all Silver Celebration Events and may be purchased by calling the Pin Chair Sallie Dykman at (623) 975-3479. Pins are \$3 each.

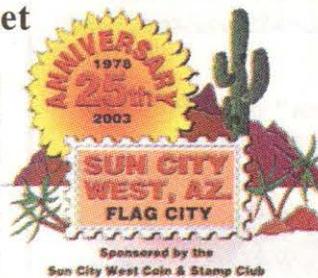
## Silver Celebration Cookbooks



Hundreds of Sun City West residents submitted their favorite recipes for inclusion in a beautiful cookbook for the 25th Anniversary of our community. Copies will be available for sale at the Feb. 15 Birthday Parties at Palm Ridge and the Social Hall. The books are \$10 each.

## Commerative cachet

The stamp section of the Sun City West Coin and Stamp Club, in concert with the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Sun City West, has made available commemorative envelopes with a cachet. The multi-colored cachet envelopes go on sale Feb. 15 for \$2 at Palm Ridge Rec Center, 13800 W. Deer Valley Drive, and R.H. Johnson Social Hall, 19803 R.H. Johnson Blvd. It will be specially cancelled dated Feb. 15 to coincide with the kick-off celebration.



## High Tea at Briarwood

Reserve your seat or table now for the May 15 High Tea at Briarwood Country Club. This elegant event in honor of the 25th Anniversary of Sun City West is limited to 240 guests.

Tickets are \$30 each or \$240 for a table of eight. Please make checks payable to SCW 25th Anniversary and send them to: 13940 W. Meeker Blvd., Suite 115-182, Sun City West, AZ 85375. Call the Event Chair Dee Hjermstad at (623) 584-5591.

## History Book of Sun City West

By Feb. 15, copies of a new 320-page history book, "The Sun City West Silver Celebration, 1978-2003" will be available. This history project was initiated by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and written by a number of long-time residents and history buffs. The book details the inception and development of the community by the Del Webb Corp. and its visionaries.

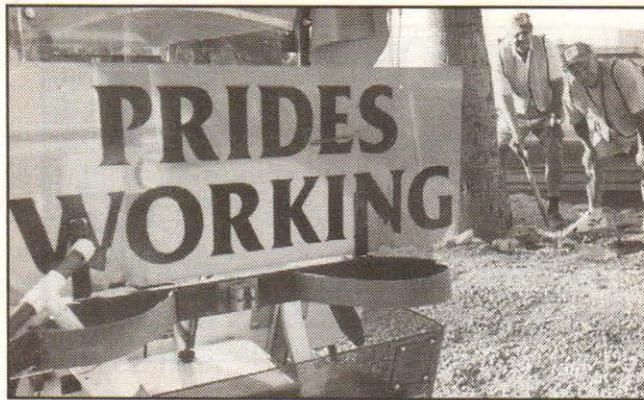
It will be sold for \$12 at the Birthday Parties, or by calling Ed Allen at (623) 975-1815.

# Taking PRIDE in Sun City West

By D.H. Horton

Sun City West was established in 1978, and residents started moving in to the development in 1979. The streets were not even finished when a handful of residents decided the main boulevards needed some attention.

Sun City West PRIDES Particular Residents Involved Doing Environmental Services was established with the express purpose of aiding the public and, to be more specific, the Maricopa County Highway Department, in the maintenance of public areas of county streets and high-



Submitted photo

## Over 300 volunteers make up PRIDES.

ways within Sun City West.

A preliminary meeting was held Feb. 24, 1982. Representatives from the Property Owners and Residents Association and a representative from the Recreation Centers, plus interested volun-

teers, were in attendance. This resulted in an organizational meeting held March 8, 1982, at which Joan Barnett was elected president. Articles of Incorporation were adopted and officially approved May 5, 1982.

Del E. Webb

Corporation donated a 1978 Ford van and agreed to pay for the first six months of insurance. The corporation also donated miscellaneous tools. Originally, 50 volunteers cleaned 11.2 miles of streets. The equipment swelled to two Ford vans, one safety golf cart, one spray wagon, two utility cars and two golf cars. MCHD donated safety vests, trash bags, gloves, cones and additional tools. Eight patrolling sections were established.

PRIDES now patrol 15 sections and cover over 22 miles of county roads in Sun City West with

•See PRIDES, Page 37

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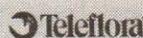
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Serving Sun City West For Over 15 years

# From golf carts to patrol cars

## SCW Posse has come a long way in 24 years

By Jeremy Pearlman  
Independent Newspapers

The Sheriff's Posse of Sun City West has come a long way since its inception in 1979.

While the organization now totes a small fleet of patrol cars, a brick and mortar headquarters and a state of the art communication system, things were not always this way.

During the early days, the organization's headquarters was a living room or a garage until the Del Webb Corp. gave the Posse a trailer to work out of — located just outside the community's border. In 1987, the group got its current digs at the Sun City West Foundation Building, but after many years of hard work.

In the organization's formative years, Posse members wore yellow jumpsuits while patrolling the community in their own cars or golf carts.

"We used (citizen band) radios in the beginning to communicate with one another," said Duty Officer Neal Coffman. A former Posse commander, Mr. Coffman has been volunteering with the Posse since its formation.

"What we did in the early days was to establish four duty officers



Posse members salute their community in this group photo taken during the summer of 2002.

Photo by Bill Flocks/Sun City West Posse

that each individually took one week and was on duty 24 hours a day for seven days," Mr. Coffman added.

If the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office needed assistance, they would call the duty officer at home.

"When the duty officer was on patrol, they would leave the CB radio at home so that if we got a call from MCSO, our wives could call us," Mr. Coffman said. "I would receive calls at 1 or 2 a.m. sometimes."

Although many things have changed over the years for the Posse, its main purpose has not waned, according to Mr. Coffman.

"We protect and we serve the community,"

Mr. Coffman said. "Our primary function at the beginning was crime prevention. We've grown from (that) and added so many different services, like block watch and traffic control."

Working under the auspices of the MCSO, the Posse patrols the community, acting as the "eyes and ears" of the MCSO.

In addition, the Posse conducts traffic control, checks homes for vacationing residents, watches homes for individuals rushed to the hospital, helps locate lost residents and provides other assistance to the MCSO and the community.

Today the Posse has some 40 duty officers in charge of individual

shifts and numerous other volunteers helping the Posse patrol Sun City West's streets 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Operated completely by volunteers, the Posse is funded through community-based donations and money earned by providing traffic control at local events.

The Posse provides an invaluable service to the community, according to Zoe Schreiber, the Posse's public information officer.

"Because of the Posse, people feel safe ... to walk at night and feel comfortable in their homes," Mrs. Schreiber said. "

For more information about the Posse, call 584-5808.



c e l e b r a t i n g

# 25 Years of Basking in the Sun



Wishing you many more years of "fun-in-the-sun," EPOCH Assisted Living of Sun City West congratulates the Sun City West community for being the ray of sunlight in the lives of so many seniors these past 25 years.

Sun City West, the premier community for independent, active seniors providing "everything under the sun," offers everything a small town has from banks to places of worship and everything in between.

EPOCH Assisted Living of Sun City West is centrally located within Sun City West. Residents of EPOCH have access to all of the amenities available to Sun City West residents including:

- Four Recreation Centers
- Swimming Pools
- Indoor & Outdoor Walking Tracks and Sports Pavilions
- Library
- Golf

EPOCH offers residents and their families the security of knowing help and assistance is available 24 hours a day. Residents come and go as they like, while enjoying the privacy of their own apartment along with the many available amenities including: three fabulous meals prepared daily by a chef, individualized custom programs of care, a varied recreational program, transportation, housekeeping, and help available at the push of a button.

For those residents who require memory support, EPOCH's BRIDGES® Program offers a safe, secure environment developed specifically for those who need a more structured and supportive atmosphere.

For more information about EPOCH Assisted Living of Sun City West, or to schedule a personal visit, call (623) 584-2338.

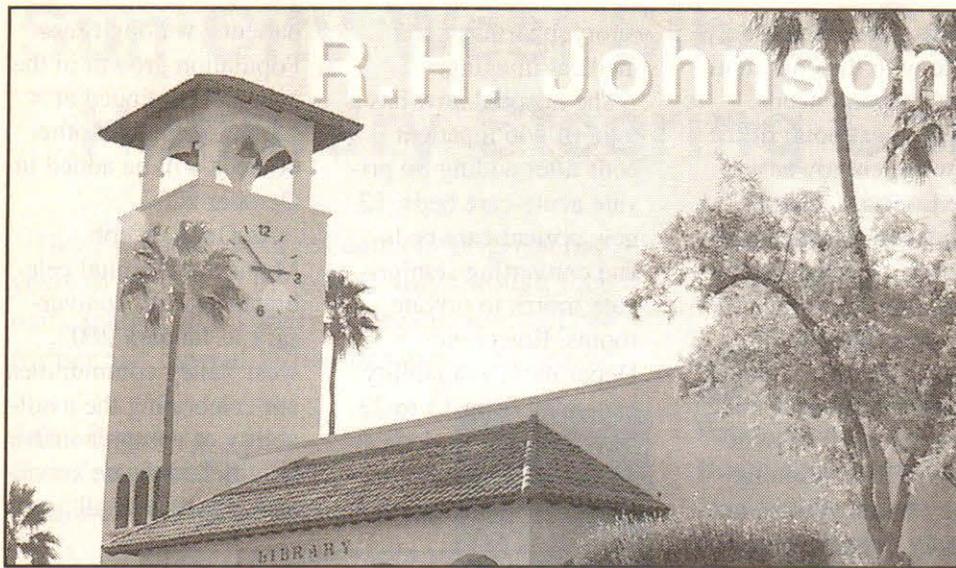


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T H E R E S I D E N C E O F C H O I C E F O R S E N I O R S



# R.H. Johnson Library

The R.H. Johnson Library, with its clock tower and chimes, is the most recognized building in Sun City West. Located at the corner of R.H. Johnson and Meeker boulevards, the facility is open year-round, Tuesday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Photo by Diana Shaughnessy  
Independent Newspapers

The library was established in October, 1979 and today houses more than 45,000 items. Books, serials, video and audio tapes are all available for check-out by Sun City West REc Center Association members.

A valid Rec Card is your ticket to the world of information offered by the professional staff and resident volunteers of the R.H. Johnson Library. Both an in-house computer access

(OPAC) and traditional card catalog make finding just the right reading material easy.

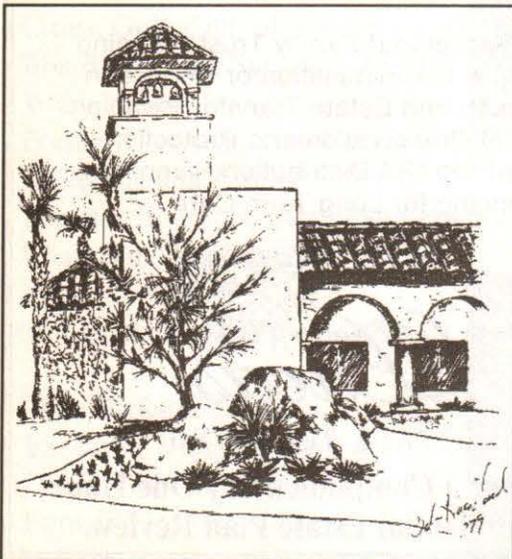
The library is a part of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West and the building, staff, and utilities are paid by the Recreation Division. Librarian Marcia Lea has provided leadership to her staff and the many library volunteers for more than 16 years.

The library is also supported by a char-

tered club known as Friends of the Library. The Friends' fund-raising programs include Thursday Nite Movies at Stardust Theatre, an annual fund drive, and book sales held throughout the year. These help to defray

the cost of purchasing new materials for the Library.

During summer and school-vacation periods, the library offers Story Time sessions for visiting grandchildren on designated Thursdays from 10 to 10:30 a.m.



The original drawing of the R.H. Johnson Library shows the distinctive clock tower.

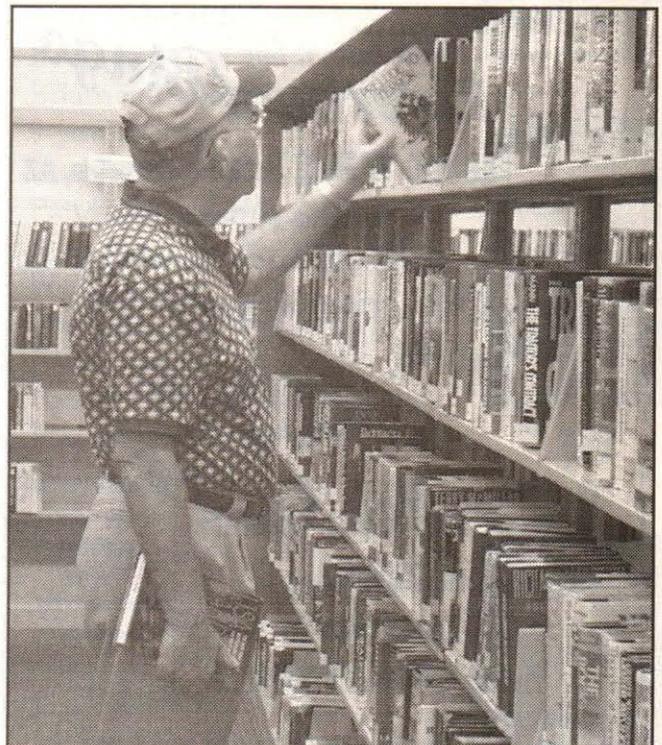


Photo by Diana Shaughnessy/Independent Newspapers

A Sun City West resident chooses a book from the library's extensive collection.

# Hospital

Continued from Page 23

Cardiac services were further enhanced at Del E. Webb Hospital in 2001 with the addition of percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) and stenting services that open blocked heart arteries.

Original plans for Del E. Webb Hospital called for the introduction of obstetrical care as soon as the service was warranted and feasible. A decade later, it became apparent that it was time to introduce this care; it was added as part of the \$46.5 million expansion that began in 2000. The entire area was experiencing rapid growth, and

it was necessary to keep pace with the communities' growing needs.

The focal point of the new patient tower was the Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health, offering specialized care for women of all ages. The Nesting Place Obstetrical Suites opened on Feb. 2, 2002 with the birth of twin boys. The continuing baby boom made it necessary to put the entire 16-suite unit into use ahead of schedule in the fall of 2002.

In addition to new acute-care beds, the expansion enlarged the Emergency Department, added Urgent Care and enlarged other vital services such as clinical labo-

ratory, pharmacy and medical imaging.

The hospital now has a total of 246 inpatient beds after adding 80 private acute-care beds, 12 new critical-care beds and converting semiprivate rooms to private rooms. Emergency Department availability expanded from 15 to 23 beds including a dedicated urgent-care area to reduce non-emergency

patients' waiting times. Population growth in the area has continued at such a rate that another 40 beds will be added in October 2003.

As Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital celebrates its 15th anniversary in January 2003, west Valley communities are celebrating the availability of comprehensive, quality healthcare services for people of all ages.



This view of the hospital shows the Louisa Kellam Center for Women's Health, which opened Feb. 2, 2002.

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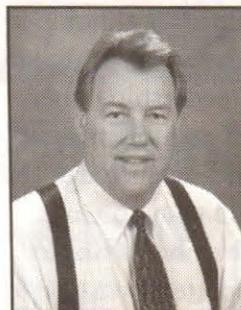
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## Flags

Continued from Page 29

this sign stood at the entrance of Sun City West.

"The program met with great success," Mr. Kilmer said. "As Sun City West continued to develop, we thought it might be a good idea to continue the flag row by adding a Memorial Boulevard of Flags, made up entirely of casket flags."

Casket flags are given to families losing a loved one during a war. "We were hoping to receive 35 or 40 flags," he said. "We ended up with over 200 people volunteering casket

flags from the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Some of the flags only had 48 stars."

A year or two later, Sun City West had five miles of flags flown on each of the six mentioned holidays. Since that time, Pearl Harbor Day and 9-11 have been added to the list.

"It is quite a significant job," Mr. Kilmer said. "It takes four teams of men to raise and lower the flags on those days."

Those interested in donating a flag may contact Post Commander Harold E. Stern, 546-8165.

## PRIDES

Continued from Page 32

approximately 300 volunteers. MCHD still furnishes safety vests, trash bags, gloves, cones and tools. The inventory shows 22 utility carts, power tools, computers and miscellaneous tools. Financial assistance comes from donations by residents, businesses and clubs.

The Sun City Foundation Cameron Center houses two garages full of PRIDES equipment needed for their work, which includes landscape trimming, painting of citrus tree trunks, picking up trash within the work area, taking care of irrigation systems and other incidental work. PRIDES works under the Maricopa County Adopt a Highway Program.

Regular business meetings are held the third Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. in the winter and 8 a.m. in the summer, in the Del Webb room at the Sun City West Foundation Cameron Center, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd. Approximately 160 volunteers attend and enjoy the coffee and donuts furnished by the Sundome Merchants Association.

PRIDES are dedicated senior citizens ranging in ages from 55 to 90 who enjoy their public service.

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The Sundome Center for the Performing Arts is the university's cultural magnet for the West Valley. It is a gateway to theater, music and dance for hundreds of thousands of Valley residents.

Since 1980, the Sundome has staged performances for the fast-growing—but often culturally underserved—West Valley. As the communities neighboring the Sundome grow and flourish, the theater's programming has diversified to serve multiple age groups.

The result is a facility that attracts more and more interest and involvement from its surrounding communities with each passing year.

ASU's Sundome Center for the Performing Arts offers reserved parking spaces for patrons with disabilities, seating areas for patrons using wheelchairs and accessible restrooms. The Sundome provides infrared audio equipment upon request.

As a member of the Sundome, you will receive a number of special benefits exclusively designed to increase your enjoyment of the Sundome:

• **Advanced Program Notice:** The Sundome, as

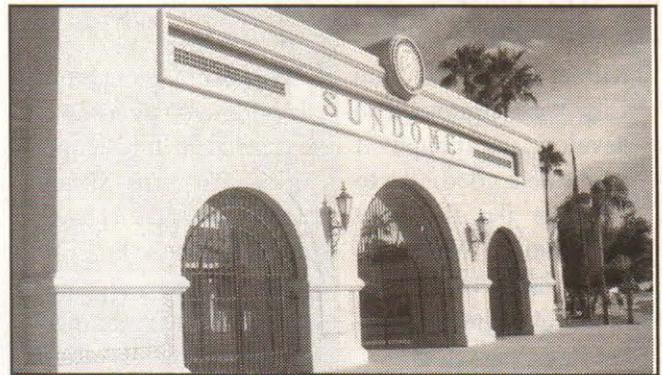
an ASU-operated facility, has access to performers and programs that are second to none. As a Sundome Performing Arts Association member, you will receive advance notification of all Sundome-sponsored programs and events.

• **Sundome Newsletter,** published three times a year, provides a calendar of events, behind-the-scenes reports of Sundome happenings, articles about Sundome staff and volunteers, and many newsworthy topics of interest to Sundome patrons.

• **Priority Ticket Purchase:** Whether you purchase single or subscription tickets, as a SPAA member you will be given a first priority purchase opportunity at the Sundome for available seats and seating upgrades.

• **Priority Seating:** As a member at the Executive Club or President's Club level, you will enjoy priority seating purchase opportunities for ASU Public Events sponsored program at other ASU venues—including Gammage Auditorium in Tempe.

• **Club Benefits:** As a SPAA member at the



The Sundome is a familiar landmark in Sun City West.

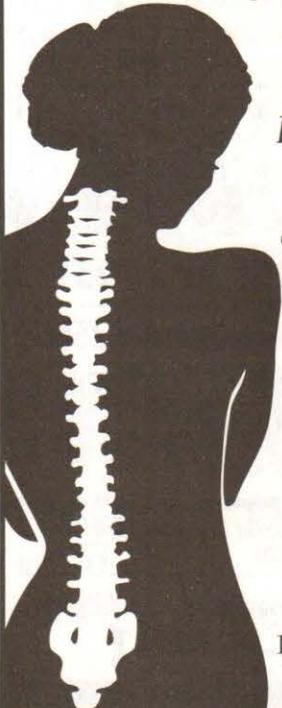
Director's Club, Executive Club and President's Club levels, you'll enjoy reserved parking at Sundome sponsored events; opportunities to meet celebri-

ties & performers, and invitations to special events.

To order tickets, call 623-975-1900 Fax: 623-584-7405.

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*I've always thought the Sundome was the nicest place we ever played, and the Sundome audiences just about the warmest anywhere! May all of you have a wonderful, wonderful 10th birthday party, with many, many more to come.*

Musically yours,

*Lawrence Welk*  
Lawrence Welk

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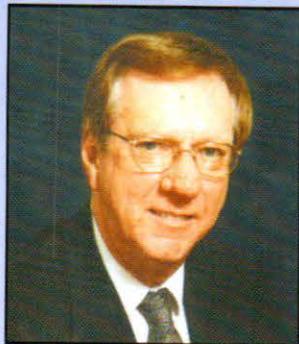


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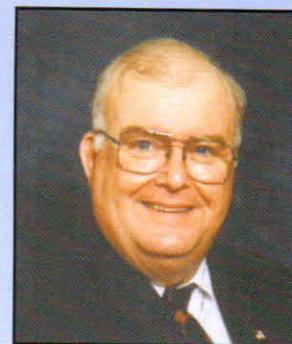


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