

# Sun Cities Area Historical Society

## Headquarters Acquisition and Renovation

### Year 1989



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## **Have you heard?**

### **Historical society moves collection**

PEORIA — The Sun Cities Area Historical Society moved its collection into larger but still temporary quarters Saturday.

"Priority one is to develop a headquarters to preserve and display the vast amount of material we have acquired," said President Glenn Sanberg, who was elected last week.

The materials are now in donated quarters in Office F2 at the Plaza del Rio Medical complex. This will permit members to complete sorting, cataloging and filing in more ample space.

The assortment of pictures, clippings and other memorabilia originally was donated (much of it by the Del E. Webb Corp.) to the group which organized informally in a windowless second floor office of the Daily News-Sun.

The group produced "Jubilee — The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona" in 1984 in time for the 1985 activities. Since vacating the News-Sun quarters, materials have been stored at the home of new Vice President Jane Freeman.

"We hope to be able to announce our new, permanent home within 60 days," said Sanberg.

Other officers recently elected are Secretary Rita Wright and Treasurer Al Thompson.



# Sun Cities' historians preserve a phenomenon

By GLENN B. SANBERG  
News-Sun columnist

SUN CITY — When 20 people got together on Oct. 20, 1982, at what was then the First Federal Savings & Loan Community Room to launch "JUBILEE-The 25th Anniversary of Sun City," an historical society came Sanberg into being as well.

Now, six years later and fully organized, The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is ready to offer the world a vast storehouse of invaluable material telling the story of one of the most significant sociological develop-



## Retired in style

ments in our nation's history. The only thing standing in the way is the public will to take the next logical step — an historical information headquarters worthy of the heritage it represents.

Sun City represents a new phase in the greening of America that is studied, reported and copied the world over. The society is attempting to make sure that the true story is being told but is hampered by the lack of facilities to meet the demand.

The society is deeply indebted to Jane Freeman, who has graciously provided storage space in her home for literally thousands of valuable and irreplaceable

documents for over three years.

Now, through the generosity of Dr. Harold Griess, these have been moved to a temporary office at Plaza Del Rio where a handful of dedicated volunteers will begin the task of sorting, identifying and cataloguing the material.

Boxes and boxes of pictures — such as the cotton fields where the Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital now stands, publicity shots of Mr. and Mrs. Frazer in front of the home they won in a contest to name Sun City and Del Webb chatting with friends at a community barbecue — are waiting to be filed for easy access.

There are tapes of interviews with men like James G Boswell,

who with L.C. Jacobson, Webb's partner, negotiated the purchase of some 20,000 acres where the Sun Cities are now built.

There are ads inviting people in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa and New York to attend the grand opening of Sun City's first model homes Jan. 1, 1960.

You can see and read the actual formal treaty that was drawn up between Oakmont and Fairway Recreation Centers and filed with the Secretary of State of Arizona, which settled a long-standing dispute that decried the use of each other's facilities.

These are just samples of interesting and valuable data the society has preserved and protected from oblivion so they can be displayed and made available

for research once suitable facilities are built.

The society is keeping the few remaining copies of JUBILEE until such time as an up-dated book can be published. The beautiful pen-and-ink sketches of Sun City churches by Emil Fischer, published in book form for the society, are still available at the nominal price of \$5.

The society is at a critical point in its journey to become a viable community enterprise.

If we are to preserve our identity as the greatest retirement community in the world; if the breakthrough of the sociological concept of Del Webb's Sun City is to be preserved for study, research and enjoyment of generations to come, a permanent

headquarters must be provided.

The foundations have been laid, but the unusual Sun City story needs to be told over and over again if our community is to grow and prosper.

Under a newly-structured board of trustees announced this week, the society has set goals for the coming year that include renewed public understanding and support for its mission.

Like so many other worthwhile and successful projects in the Sun Cities the Historical Society will surely be welcomed with a generous outpouring of funds and volunteers so traditional in this community when a genuine need is made known.

Sanberg is president of the Sun Cities Historical Society.

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*Sanberg is president of the Sun Cities Historical Society.*

## Have you heard?



News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**FOR THE ARCHIVES** — Members of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society are busy in new, temporary quarters in Office F2 at

Plaza del Rio Medical complex. Here Jeanne Woodford, left, Emil Fischer and Agnes Fansler sort materials.





## YOU ARE INVITED

to meet with friends, enjoy good fellowship and hear a program that will be of special interest to you. Hear about Sun City, past, present and future.

### Date

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1989

### Place

EL DORADO - Thunderbird Blvd.  
(Between the Lakes Club &  
Valley National Bank)

### Time

2:00 P.M.



DON TUFFS, Sr. Vice President  
Del Webb Corp.

"Sun Cities Future - the  
Del Webb Point of View"

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

**Sun Cities Area**



**Historical Society**

## Historical Society meets April 10

SUN CITY — Don Tuffs, senior vice president of the Del Webb Corp., will speak at the annual spring meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society at 2 p.m. April 10 at El Dorado of Sun City, 10330 Thunderbird Blvd.

His topic will be "The Del Webb Story: Today and the Future."

Tuffs joined the public relations staff of the Del E. Webb Development Co. in 1971. He was named manager of the Sundome in 1980 and in 1983 was appointed senior vice president. He now serves as senior vice president, real estate group, Del Webb Corp.



The society, in its fourth year, will announce future plans at the meeting.

The public is invited.

## Webb senior VP to address local Historical Society

A senior vice president of the Del Webb Corporation, Don Tuffs, will be the principal speaker at the annual spring meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, at 2 p.m. April 10.

The meeting, open to the public, will be in the meeting room of El Dorado of Sun City, 10330 Thunderbird Blvd.

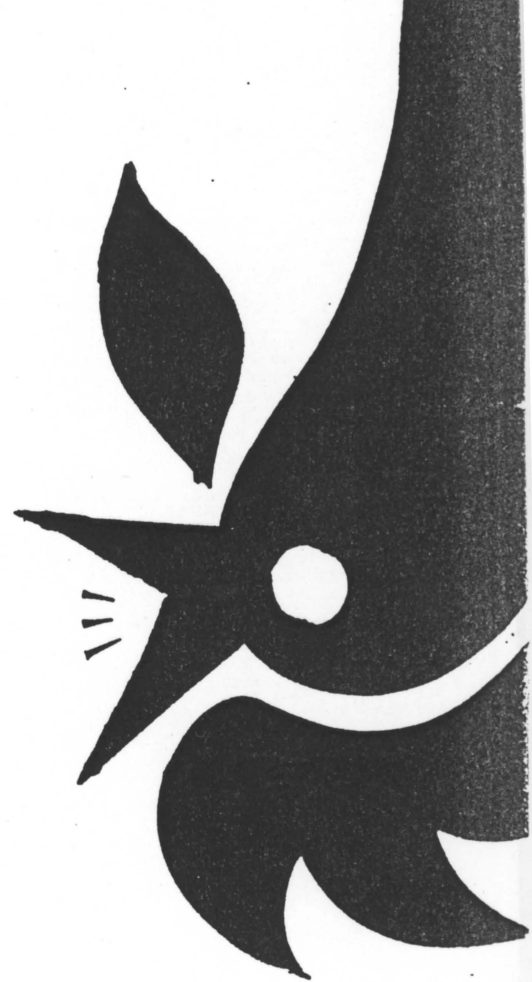
Mr. Tuffs will speak on "The Del Webb Story: Today and the Future."

He will discuss late developments affecting the corporation and the impact on the future of the Sun Cities.

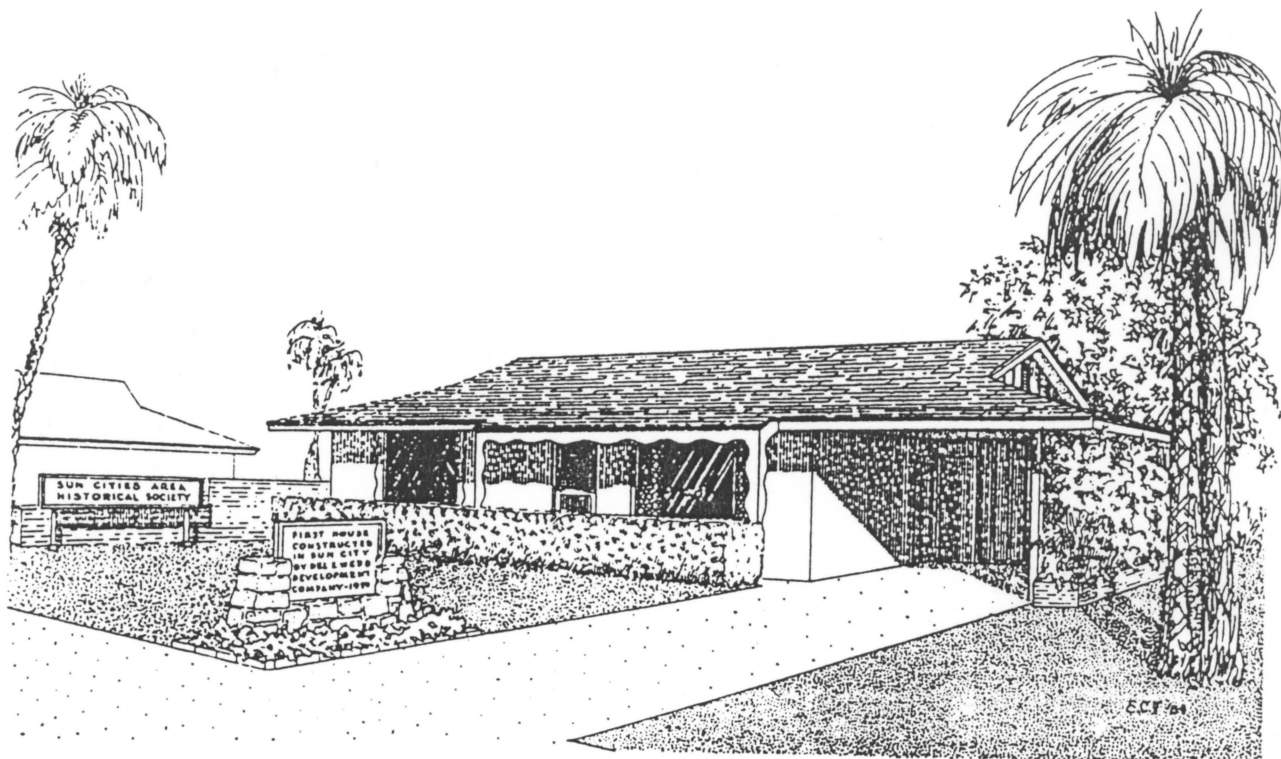
The Historical Society is in its fourth year.



SOMETHING  
CROW  
ABOUT



S. C. Historical Soc.  
16828 99th Ave.  
Sun City, AZ 85351



S.C.A.H.S. HEADQUARTERS

*We have a home !!*

ON APRIL 26, 1989 WE SIGNED A PURCHASE AGREEMENT TO BUY THE  
VERY FIRST HOME BUILT IN SUN CITY LOCATED AT 10801 OAKMONT DRIVE.

MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE AND YOU WILL BE HEARING MORE ABOUT IT.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT MORE THAN EVER AND WE WILL BE MOUNTING A  
FULL FLEDGED CAMPAIGN IN THE FALL.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE'RE ON OUR WAY!!!!!!

*Glenn B. Sanberg*  
Glenn Sanberg  
President

From the outside, the white, two-bedroom house at 10801 Oakmont Ave. seems an unassuming landmark for a cultural revolution led by Sun City developer Del E. Webb.

Sun City's first official residence has a single carport, desert landscaping and a backyard view of the 154-acre front nine of the 72-par North Golf Course.

Although she has never lived in the home, Vera Jean Painter is very much a part of its history.

Painter, owner of Jean's Sportsgs, 12801 W. Bell Road, bought it in 1984 for \$50,000 from the family of the original owner, Denver motel builder John McDonald. He and, in turn, each of his two wives, occupied it for 24 years.

"I just thought it would be nice to own the first home in Sun City," Painter said.

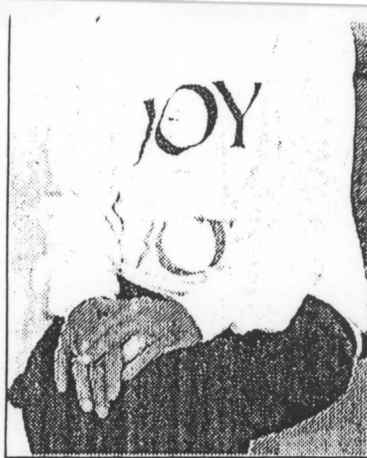
At the time, "I also had (my) business at (Grand Center) on the corner of Grand Avenue and 107th Avenue. It was right across the street from the back door of my store."

Painter rented out the house while she owned it, never spending a single night there herself. She once considered moving her 94-year-old mother into it, but never did.

Last spring, she sold her piece of local history to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society for \$44,000.

"I sold it at a loss, but I felt like I made a donation to the Historical Society," she said.

Historical Society founders Jane Freeman and Glen Sandberg are grateful the property is now available for display and use as a local museum. It will be open to the



Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic  
Mildred Toldrian, 82, is a pioneer of Sun City. When she and her now-deceased husband saw the community, "we were just amazed," she said. "We fell in love with it."

public starting Monday.

When new in 1959, the 950-square-foot Kentworth model home, built of brick, sold for \$8,500.

It was the prototypical starter house for an older but wiser generation — retiring grandparents of baby boomers, who bought into Webb's concept of an active lifestyle in their golden years, according to Sandberg.

Today, there are still 225 of the original residents.

One of them, Mildred Toldrian, 82, is a pioneer of both Sun City and Sun City West, where she moved when Del Webb Corp. opened it in 1978.

She and her now-deceased husband, Clarence, a 30-year Milwaukee postal worker, moved from Wisconsin to Phoenix in 1958

bought a Brookside model home for about \$10,000 on a corner of a cul-de-sac at 12025 Hillcrest Drive.

"It was a two-bedroom, one-bath house, with a living room and nice kitchen area," Toldrian recalled.

The home was within walking distance of both Grand Center and the Oakmont Community Center, then the twin hubs of such Sun City socializing and recreational pursuits as golf, lawn bowling and swimming.

"We went swimming every day. If I went to the grocery store, I needed an hour and a half," she said, explaining that filling up her shopping cart was just an excuse for visiting with neighbors and making friends of new arrivals.

"It was a real fun community."

Despite Sun City's growth from a small, tight-knit community of 2,000 to today's population of 46,000, Toldrian said she and her husband never wanted to move.

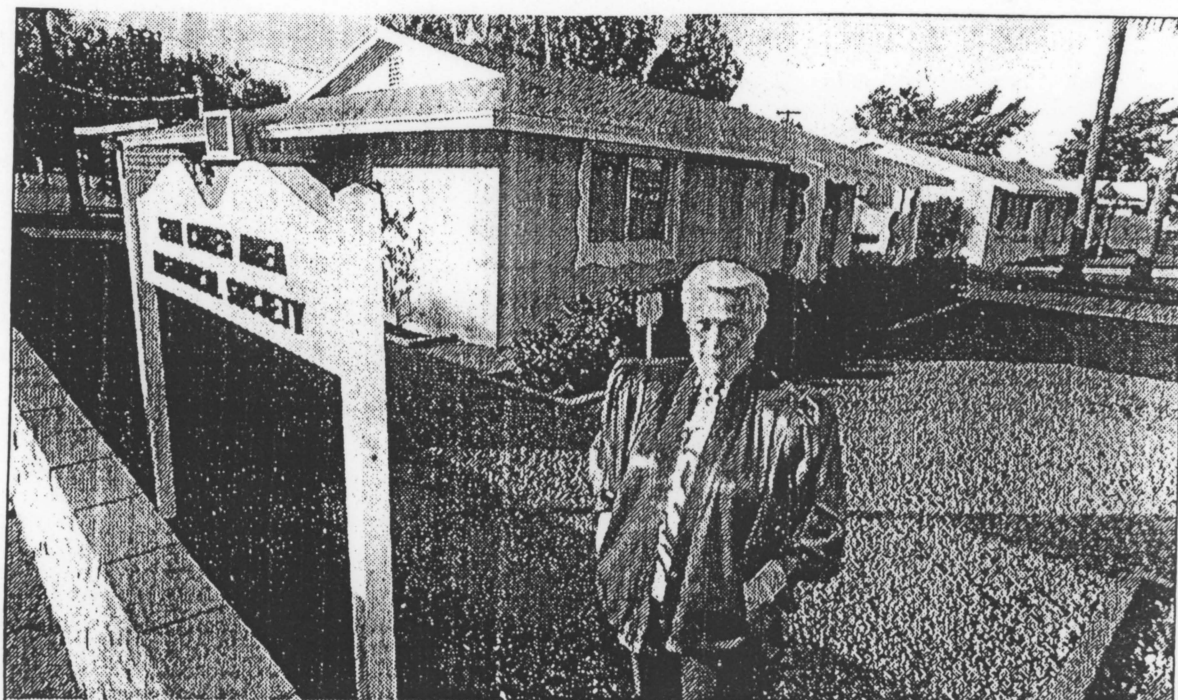
They lived together in the same house for 14 years.

After her husband's death in 1974, she stayed there four more years before deciding it was time to leave.

"I felt I had to do something different," she said. "I picked up all my good memories" and departed for Sun City West.

With the sale of her Sun City home, she purchased another in its sister community, where she maintains an active lifestyle.

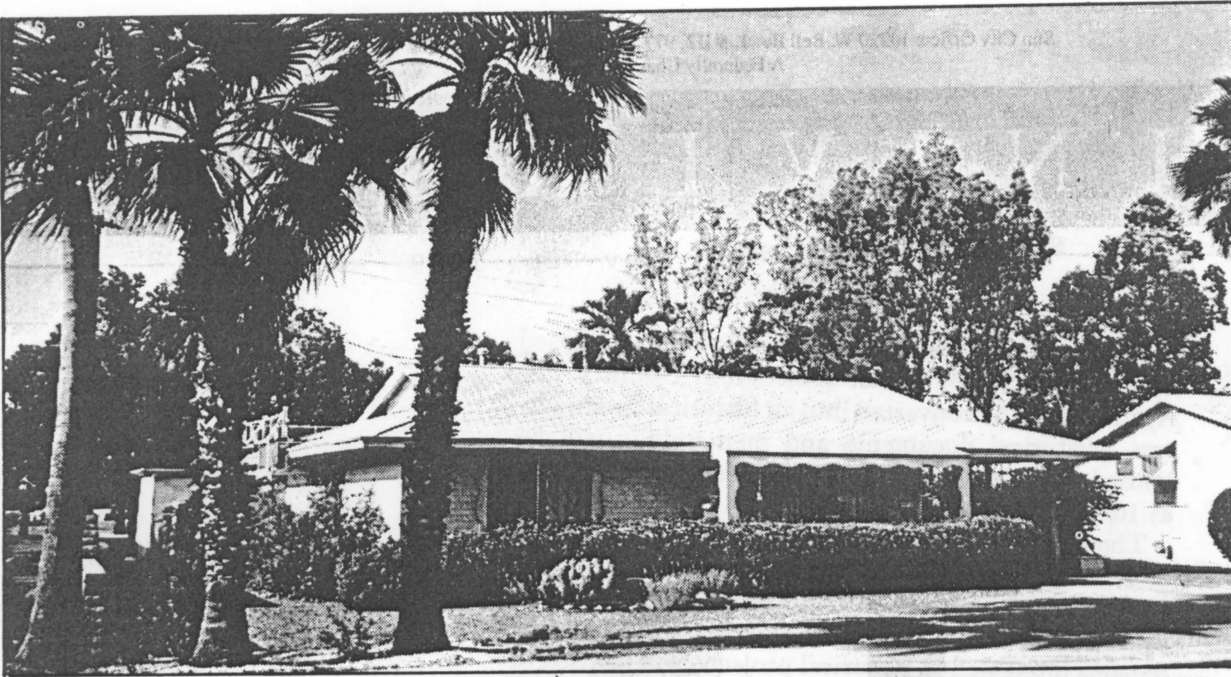
"I like Sun City and Sun City West," she said. "There's so much to do. If you can't find something that interests you, then there's something wrong with you."



Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic  
Vera Jean Painter, who bought Sun City's first official residence in 1984, sold her piece of history last year to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. It was converted into a museum that will be open to the public starting Monday.

DATE  
?

Bud owned  
7/10/80,



News-Sun photo by P. Atwood Williams

**TO BECOME MUSEUM** — Sun City's first model home at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive will be remodeled to become the headquarters of the Sun Cities Historical Society.

5-16-89

## Sun Cities Area Historical Society gets model home for headquarters

### News-Sun staff

**SUN CITY** — While the walls of the area's first hotel have come tumbling down, a local historical society is taking steps that will keep Sun City's first model home around a lot longer.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will soon remodel the home at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, next to Oakmont Recreation Center and North Golf Course, to serve as a museum and headquarters.

The group seeks volunteers to work this summer to make a fall opening and dedication possible.

The society, formed in 1985, hopes to get the home, built in 1959, listed on the Arizona State Historic Property Inventory. And

in 19 years, when eligible, the society hopes to get the home included on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Historical Society President Glenn Sanberg announced today that the James G. Boswell Foundation donated a matching-funds grant of \$30,000 and that another \$46,000 for renovation is to be met by gifts of trustees, members and friends.

Del Webb Communities Inc., which built Sun City, will donate \$5,000, office equipment and a complete set of plats to be housed in the museum.

The goal is to raise \$10,000 from the public to enable the group to house the memorabilia now in temporary storage that

was acquired in 1985 when Sanberg and Jane Freeman wrote "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona."

Acquisition of the property was arranged by Les Merydith, building committee chairman, and lawyer Robert Farrer.

Vice President Freeman made a plea for typewriters for use by retired librarian members as they catalog thousands of photos, clippings, telephone books, brochures, scrapbooks and other memorabilia.

Those who wish to make a contribution may do so to Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 16828 N. 99th Ave., Sun City 85351.



1989

The first model home built in Sun City was purchased by the **Sun Cities Area Historical Society** last April and will be converted into an historical headquarters. Historical documents and memorabilia will be housed at the model known as The Kentworth, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive.

The purchase was made possible by a matching grant of \$30,000 by the James G. Boswell Foundation and \$5,000 from Del Webb Communities, Inc. The matching funds, expected to be met by trustees, members and persons interested in historical projects, will be used to renovate the building and pay off the mortgage. Memberships are available, ranging from Individual (\$10) to Life (\$250).

During the summer, retired librarians Agnes Fansler and Jeann Woodford sorted and catalogued many of the items to be stored at the new headquarters. The Society is seeking information, photos, stories and memorabilia about the town of Marinette from the early 1920s through the time it was sold and became Sun City. Also needed is early Sun City and Sun City West (including Lizard Acres) material plus identified photos.

The headquarters will make it possible to conduct regular public displays of significant historical information involving the people and events of the early years in the two Sun Cities. Plans are underway for a formal dedication in January 1990, when Sun City celebrates its 30th anniversary.

Funds and volunteers are needed to complete the necessary repairs and renovations as well as the every-

day operation of the headquarters.

Persons wishing to make a tax-exempt contribution may send their gift to Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 16828 99th Ave., Sun City, Az. 85351. For more information, call 977-9961, 972-9310, 977-1775 or 974-5377.



# Historical Society purchases first Sun City model home for museum

*"Today is tomorrow's history."  
-- Jane Freeman,  
vice president, Sun Cities  
Area Historical Society*

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has purchased the very first model home ever built in Sun City and has announced plans to convert it into an historical museum.

The property, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, adjacent to the Oakmont Recreation Center and North Golf Course, will be used by the organization to store its large collection of Sun City photos and momentos.

The purchase was made possible by a matching-funds grant of \$30,000 by the James G. Boswell Foundation.

The balance of the \$60,000 price tag will be met by private donations. The price includes an estimated expense of \$16,000 to upgrade and restore the home to its original condition.

Historical Society officials say they intend to have the property listed on the Arizona State Historic Property Inventory and

*See HISTORY, page 7*

## Welcome to Lizard Acres Group seeks early history on Sun Cities

Planning a trip to Marinette? How about Lizard Acres?

Well, you won't have to go far.

Before Del Webb purchased the land on which Sun City and Sun City West now sit, the area now known as Sun City was called Marinette and Sun City West was known as Lizard Acres.

Most of the land was privately owned by the Boswell family who, in turn, sold it to the Webb Company.

Unfortunately, very little is known about the two communities in their pre-Sun Cities days.

The Sun Cities Historical Society is in the process of gathering information about the area prior to 1960 (the opening of Sun City).

• Volume 29, Number 20 •



**A LOOK INTO THE PAST.** The Sun Cities Historical Society has purchased the very first model home ever constructed in Sun City and plan to use the building to house its large archive of historical material pertaining to the Sun Cities. Jane Freeman and Glenn Sanberg display some of the items to be shown at the site.

Among the other items to be housed at the museum:

- community newspapers;
- private scrapbooks that have been donated to the Historical Society over the past few years;
- Del Webb marketing brochures dating back to 1960;
- material pertaining to the Sun City Saints, a professional women's softball team that, at one time, played at the Sun City Stadium. Items include a uniform and trophies won by the team over the years;
- every Sun City phone directory since the first one ever published.

The Historical Society also has the original "treaty" between members of the Oakmont Recreation Center and the Fairway Recreation Center (then called Town Hall Center).

In the early 1960s, members were restricted to one or the other recreation center. The "treaty," signed by the secretary of state, allowed members of each center to use both facilities.

"If you think there is a wall today between Sun City and Sun City West, there once was a real wall between Oakmont and Fairway members," says Ms. Freeman.

Ms. Freeman says funds are needed to complete the necessary repairs and renovations at the model home. A fund-drive campaign is planned for this fall.

Along with early photos of Sun City, Ms. Freeman says the Historical Society is presently in search of programs from early Easter Sunrise Services and Sun City Player productions.

In addition, the organization is searching for Pioneer residents who would be willing to provide oral histories of their early days in Sun City.

Call 977-9961 or 974-5377.

## • HISTORY

*S.C. Independent 6/24/89*

*From page one*

subsequently on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The Historical Society, a non-profit organization, was organized in 1985 following the publication of "Jubilee, the 25th Anniversary of Sun City." The

"We're trying to preserve history for the people of tomorrow."

-- Jane Freeman  
Historical Society

book, written by Jane Freeman and Glenn Sanberg, detailed the first 25 years of Sun City.

"We're trying to preserve our history for the people of tomorrow," says Ms. Freeman, vice president of the Historical Society.

The organization's main purpose has been to discover, collect and preserve materials that illustrate the history of Sun City, Sun City West and Youngtown.

Ms. Freeman says the group has been very successful in accumulating material. The new building, she says, will provide the Historical Society with a permanent facility to house and display its collection.

A few years ago, she says, Webb officials donated its archives to the organization.

"Unfortunately, many of the photos are not dated or labeled so our challenge is to go back and try to place the dates and names," says Ms. Freeman.

# Historical society gets home

## 1st Webb model to be museum

By **Connie Cone Sexton**  
*The Phoenix Gazette*

SUN CITY — The community's first model home has been sold to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, which will convert it into a museum and headquarters.

During the past four years, society members have been collecting books, printed materials and other memorabilia to chronicle the Sun Cities' history. But without a permanent location, the members have had to place items in their homes or storage areas.

Buying the house not only lets members dust off and reacquaint themselves with the pieces, but it will let the public view them as well, said Glenn Sanberg, society president.

Built in 1959 by the Del E. Webb Development Co., the house at 10801 Oakmont Drive had two bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen and a living room. A third bedroom, a second bath and an Arizona room were added to the frame house.

Sanberg is excited about getting the society's collection arranged.

"We're in the process of closing the deal on the house," he said. "It's on track. There is no question whether we will be going there."

Sanberg said the house is an ideal choice for the society because of its historic nature.

"But we'll still have to do some substantial remodeling," he said. "We will maintain it as a historic property. We hope to get it filed with the Arizona State Historic Property Inventory and eventually with the National Registry of Historic Places." Only property at least 50 years old is eligible for the registry.

Most residents will be surprised at the size of the society's collection, Sanberg said. "(The James G.) Boswell (Foundation) has given us maps and original blueprints of the area," he said. "And the Del Webb people have given us architectural blueprints of the original homes. This will be very useful for people who have these original homes and want to remodel them."

Other items include the first trophy given to the Sun City Saints softball team. "And hundreds and hundreds of pictures," he said. "We can't decide how to arrange it all. The house will have to be carefully designed to accommodate everything, and we'll need a place to work and get organized."

Eventually, the museum will be opened to the public. "This means we'll have to have a group of volunteers," Sanberg said.

He plans to convert the front of the house into a large room for exhibits and meetings. The kitchen is to be remodeled for the local genealogy society. Other space will be used for a museum office and storage.

During this first stage, a sign will be erected on the lawn designating the house as the original Del Webb model home.

In the second stage of remodeling, the carport would be converted for the genealogy group. The former kitchen then would

See ■ History, Page D

*The Phoenix Gazette*

Wednesday, May 24, 1989

Page 1W-A

## ■ History

From Page A

become a meeting room.

A \$30,000 matching funds grant from the Boswell Foundation and money from trustees, members and friends of the society is being used to purchase the \$44,000 house. About \$16,000 will be needed for renovations and furniture, Sanberg said.

About \$7,500 per year is projected to be obtained from membership fees to operate the facility.

Acquiring the museum site was a top goal. With the move, members said they would push to have their membership grow.

The society was organized in 1985 during the publication of "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona." The book was

written by Sanberg and Jane Freeman. Proceeds were used by the authors to start the society.

Members collect material to help illustrate the history of the area, including its exploration, settlement, wealth and progress in population.

Hundreds of residents and business owners have donated printed material — histories, biographies, descriptions, directories, newspapers, handbills, posters and catalogs. Museum pieces include photographs and paintings that illustrate what the community looked like — past to present.

Contributions may be sent to: Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 16828 99th Ave., Sun City 85351.



## News-Sun editorial

# Cultural repositories

You have to know where you've been to understand who you are and where you're headed. The individual or the community without memory of a cultural past is often unsure of self-identity, left yearning for historic roots and going uncertainly into the future.

Where there are museums — for the preservation of art, of history, of science or of our natural world — a community can mark its progress and its possibilities. A sense of being part of an ongoing panorama is nurtured and inspiration can be found to move ahead with purpose.

Moving forward is what area organizations are doing to provide the kind of cultural reminders that stimulate appreciation, put past and present in perspective and develop a special pride in community.

The Sun Cities Art Museum presented its first show in 1976 in an office building at 98th Avenue and Bell Road, with 2,440 square feet of exhibition space. Today it occupies a 9,000-square-foot building at 115th and Bell Road and a 3,500 expansion is in the planning for fall. The quality and scope of its exhibitions are impressive and it has given encouragement to a host of local artists whose talents might not otherwise have found an outlet.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society had its inception in 1985 when Sun City celebrated its 25th anniversary. A few of the people who had researched the community's history saw the value of historical continuity. Their inspiration was a history of Sun City from 1960 to 1985, "JUBILEE: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona," and a desire to make sure that further history would be recorded. They formed the historical society and found storage space for the memorabilia that was simply too precious to discard. Now, the group will have its own museum, appropriately in Sun City's first model home. A fall dedication and opening is projected.

In Peoria, the city's first schoolhouse is being restored to its original appearance and will house the Peoria Arts and Cultural Center. It is not only a reminder of Peoria's history, but will be a repository for its past and a stimulus to community interest in the arts.

These communities are fortunate to have the kind of people who recognize the need for places where residents can find an identity with the past and fulfillment in the beauty and challenge of the arts. There has not been an easy road; it has taken hard, hard work and disappointments as well as the excitement of accomplishment. In return, they ask only our participation and our support.

Tomorrow is International Museum Day. Make it a day to learn more about our local museums and pledge your support as volunteers or contributors.

# Sun City plans to house 29-year past in museum

By Holly D. Remy  
The Arizona Republic

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society on Tuesday announced plans to turn a house into a museum of Sun City history — all 29 years of it.

"As we like to say, 'Today is tomorrow's history,'" said Jane Freeman, the society's vice president.

The museum will contain items squirreled away by donors, including restaurant menus, programs for Easter services, a 45-rpm record from 1964 titled *Santa Claus and Sun City*, and a

uniform and softballs used by the Sun City Saints women's professional team, which was disbanded in 1985.

The house, which also will be the historical society's headquarters, is at 10801 Oakmont Drive.

"It is the first house that Del Webb built and one of the three models that opened on the first weekend in January 1960," said Glenn Sanberg, the society's president.

According to the society's records, Del E. Webb Development Corp. sold

— See **SUN CITY**, page B2

## Sun City planning museum

— **SUN CITY**, from page B1

two-bedroom homes like the model for \$9,300 in 1960, plus \$1,250 for a lot next to a golf course and \$600 for air conditioning.

The group is paying \$44,000 for the house, which has been unoccupied for about a year, and expects to spend \$16,000 to renovate it, Sanberg said. The funding is from donations and a \$30,000 grant from the James G. Boswell Foundation. The sale is expected to close within 10 days.

If all goes according to plan, the museum will open before Sun City's first 30-year mortgages are paid off.

"We hope to use the summer months to renovate the house and then open the museum in the fall," said Les Merydith, chairman of the society's building committee.

Because it will contain thousands of photographs, newspaper clippings and

books by area authors, Freeman said, the museum will be used mainly as an archive.

Eventually, she said, the society hopes to have collections dating to the 1850s, when settlers arrived in the area.

The museum idea was born in 1985, the year the historical society was begun and Sun City celebrated its 25th year.

The society already has asked that the house have a special designation.

"We've already contacted the state and have been assured that the house will be listed as a historical site," Merydith said.

Such designations are reserved for buildings at least 50 years old or of special significance, said Pat Stein, a preservation planner for the historic-preservation office of the Arizona Parks Department.

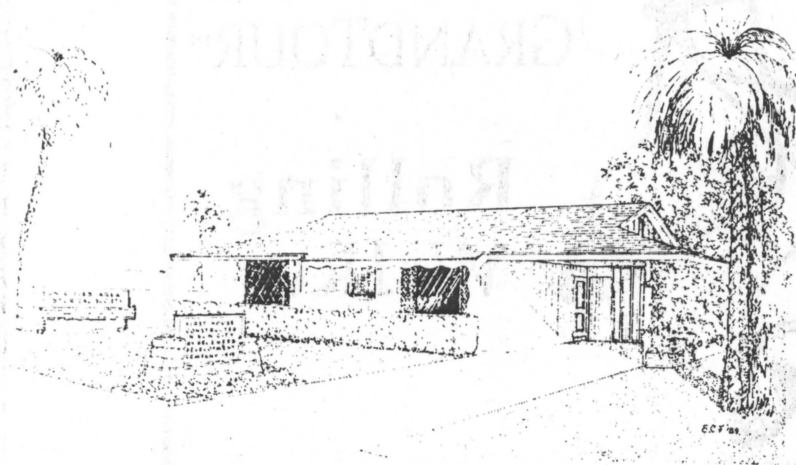


# First SC Model Home Will Be Area Museum

by Cal Snyder

The first step has been taken to provide the Sun Cities an historical museum with the announced purchase last week of the first model home constructed by Del E. Webb in his bid to create

cal significance and will be used to house the myriad charts, surveys and similar items will be welcome. Clear title to the objects must be given. The emphasis should be on items that will contribute to an understanding history in and of themselves.



**First home in Sun Cities purchased for permanent Historical Society of Sun Cities Museum.**

(Photo supplied)

the nation's premier retirement community.

Four years' planning and dreaming by the Sun Cities Historical Society for a museum to record for posterity the drama of creating the Sun Cities, at the start a decided risk, today an overwhelming success, was revealed at a press conference at the SC Homeowners Board room.

The property located at 10801 Oakmont Dr. adjacent to Oakmont Recreation Center and North Golf Course, has great histori-

cal significance and will be used to house the myriad charts, surveys and similar items will be welcome.

The property will be renovated in two phases as funds become available. The first phase will seek openness for display and meetings, storage and office space. Later, the carport will be enclosed to make suitable quarters for the area Genealogical Society.

Because the Society has acquired over the years items such as maps, programs of events, pictures tied in with the 25th anni-

versary celebration of Sun City five years ago, a special appeal is being made to Sun City Westers to submit memorabilia to be utilized.

It is suggested such items as histories, biographies, photos, directories, newspapers, pamphlets, catalogues, circulars,

Material relating to lizard acres, the old feed lot area, is welcomed, officials said.

Membership in the Society is solicited and may be sent to Society offices at 16828 99th Ave., Sun City, or for information call 974-2569. Family memberships are \$15 annually and go to \$250 for a life membership. Corporate/business membership is \$100.

In addition to Mr. Sandberg, other officers are Jane Freeman, vice president; Rita Wright, secretary, and Al Thompson, treasurer. Currently there are 80 members governed by 14 trustees.

# 1st Webb home becomes SC shrine

By P. ATWOOD WILLIAMS  
News-Sun staff

**SUN CITY** — The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is planning an open house in January as part of Sun Cities 30th anniversary.

Historians will show off their new headquarters in Del E. Webb's first model home at 10801 Oakmont Drive, which opened Jan. 2, 1960.

The Wentworth model home was purchased recently by the historians to house society memorabilia now in temporary storage. Remodeling is underway and the group will move in during the fall.

The purchase was made possible by a matching-funds grant of \$30,000 by the James G. Boswell Foundation. The balance of the cost of \$60,000, including \$16,000 in upgrading expenses, is being met by gifts of trustees, members and friends.

Les Merydith, chairman of the Society's Building Committee, arranged temporary financing and has been personally involved in the early renovation since the group occupied the building.

The front portion of the building, including the pink-tiled gal-

ley kitchen behind a high partition, will be left intact. However, the major addition to the home, which runs along the entire back facing the golf course, will be made into a multi-purpose room for the historians.

Merydith, who has already watered the front shrubs back to life, has torn out the bathroom addition in the new portion to make more space available.

Negotiations are now underway with the area genealogical society, which may wish to use the two bedrooms as library and research facility and share equipment space in the dining area and maintenance expenses.

The original Goettl air-conditioner/heating unit is in good working condition, and the company will donate another unit to cool and heat the addition across the back.

Architectural drawings and conversion plans were done by Trustee Emil Fisher, author of "Churches of the Sun Cities" published by the group.

Office furniture has also been donated by Del Webb Communities Inc., who began building the community 30 years ago.

The society is cataloging

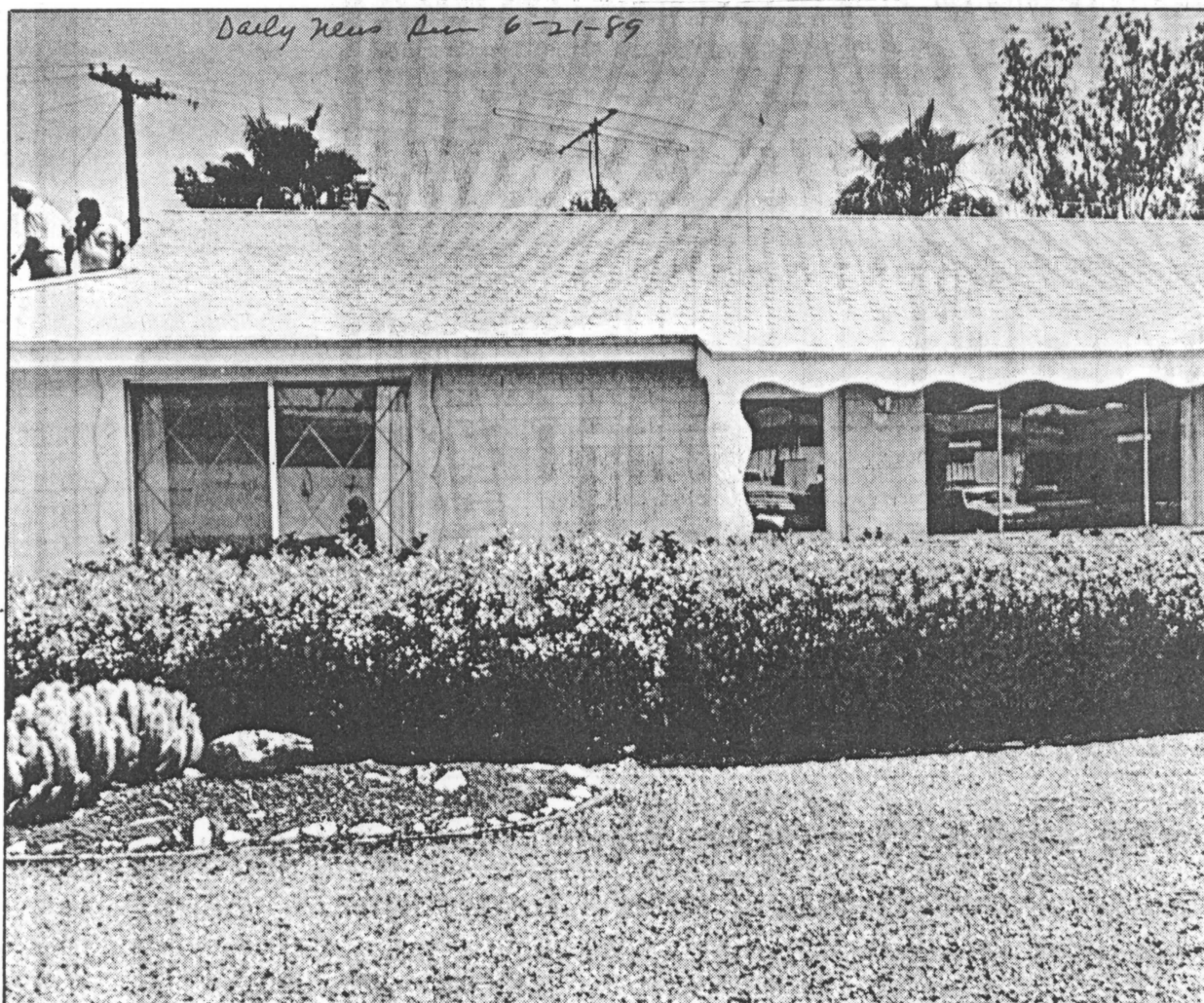
materials in temporary quarters at Plaza del Rio where they pay only utilities.

The group organized in 1985 after the publication of "Jubilee, the 25th Anniversary of Sun City." For many months the materials were stored in the home of Jane Freeman, current vice president.

The new headquarters will house regular public displays of significant historical documents, stories and pictures of people and events of the early years in the two Sun Cities. Many of the materials were gathered when the builder cleaned out 25-year-old files.

The society has 80 members and is governed by a board of trustees of 14 members. Officers are: Glenn Sanberg, president; Rita Wright, secretary and Al Thompson, treasurer.

Funds are needed now to complete the repairs and upscale the landscaping. Those wishing to donate office equipment, services, other goods or make a tax-exempt contribution, may send a gift to: Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 16828 N. 99th Ave., Sun City 85351.

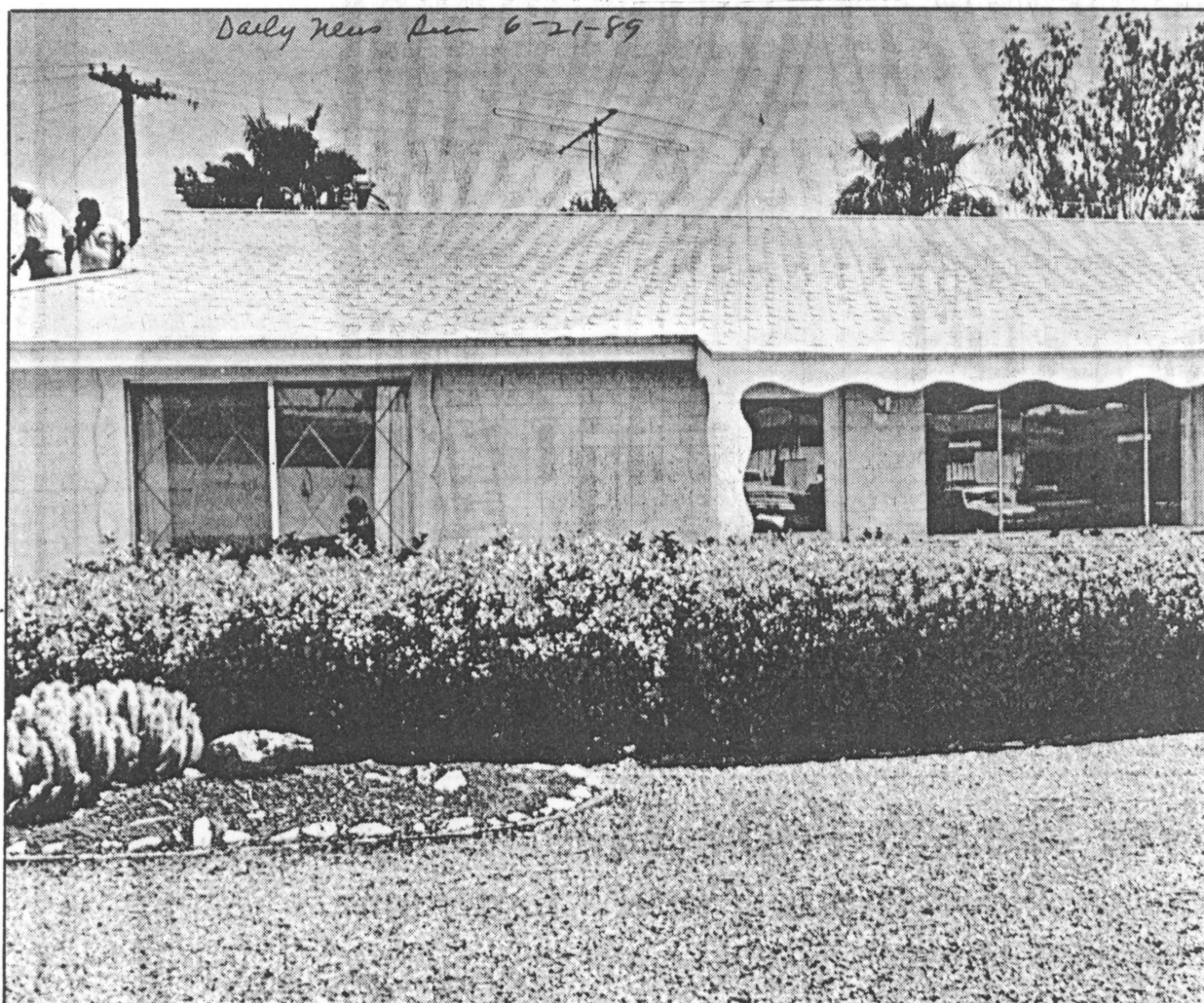


**THIS OLD HOUSE** — The first Sun City model home at 10801 Oakmont Dr., built in 1959 by the Del E. Webb Construction

Co., is being remodeled to house the Sun Cities Area Historical Society collections. A January open house is planned.

News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherneski





News-Sun photo by Stephen Chernes

**THIS OLD HOUSE** — The first Sun City model home at 10801 Oakmont Dr., built in 1959 by the Del E. Webb Construction

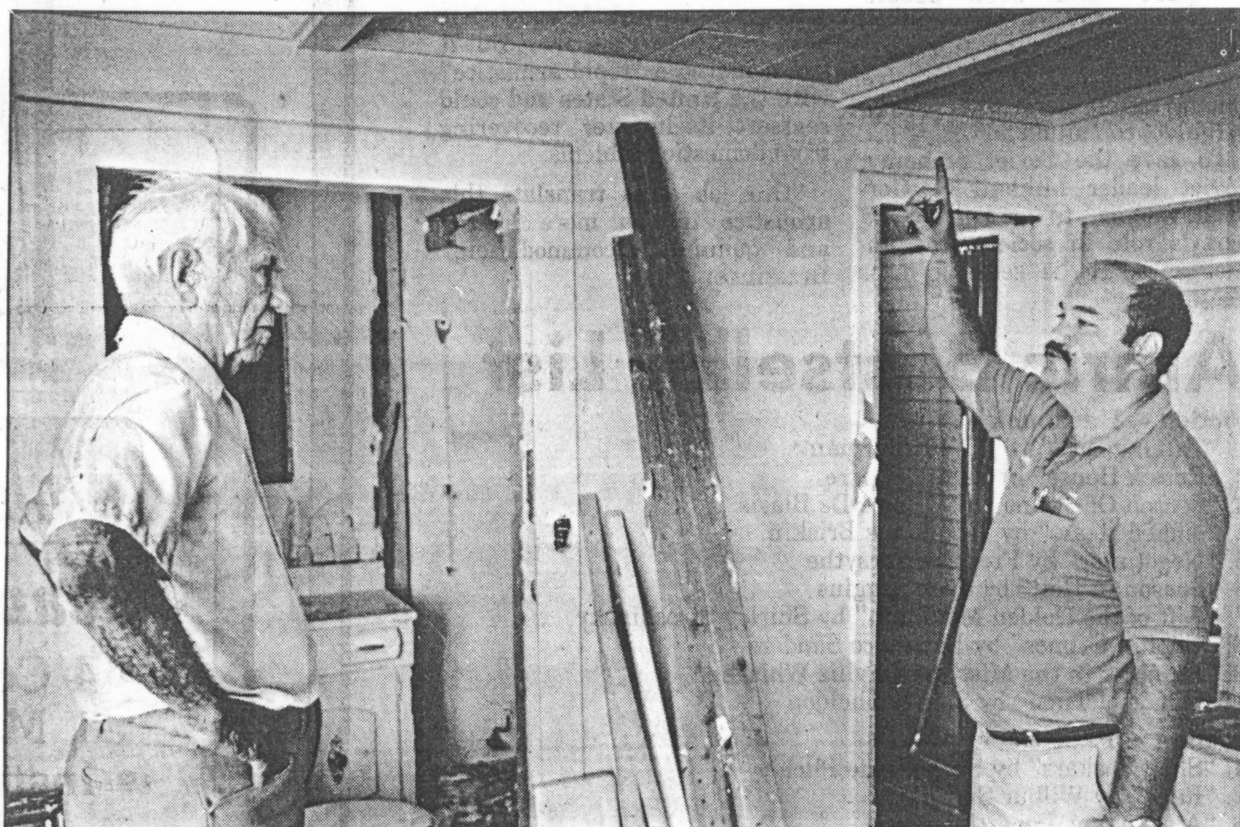
Co., is being remodeled to house the Sun Cities Area Historical Society collections. A January open house is planned.

Daily News Sun 6-21-89



News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherek

**COMBINED EFFORT** — Wally Britton, left, a consultant on the restoration project, talks with VerNon Lalliss and Les Merydith about the roof.



News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherek

**MINOR REPAIRS** — Historian Les Merydith talks with Jerry Kramer of Goettl Air

Conditioning about ductwork to be done on the 30-year-old house.

Daily News Sun 6-21-89



## Retired in style

By GLENN B. SANBERG  
News-Sun columnist  
SUN CITY — ...

<sup>AUSTIN</sup>  
Tom ~~Watson~~, Del Webb's first activities coordinator, sends word from his home in Mesa congratulating the Sun Cities Historical Society on its new headquarters. He wants to donate the original Articles of Incorporation of the Sun City Civic Organization for its archives.

The framed document was presented to him by the board of directors in 1961. SCCO is the forerunner of our Sun City Home Owners Association.

Still an enthusiastic booster of Sun City, Tom suggests we should never forget that many of the present recreational facilities enjoyed in Sun City were initiated by the Pioneers.

"If it weren't for the devotion and hard work of the Pioneers," he said, "Sun City wouldn't be what it is today."

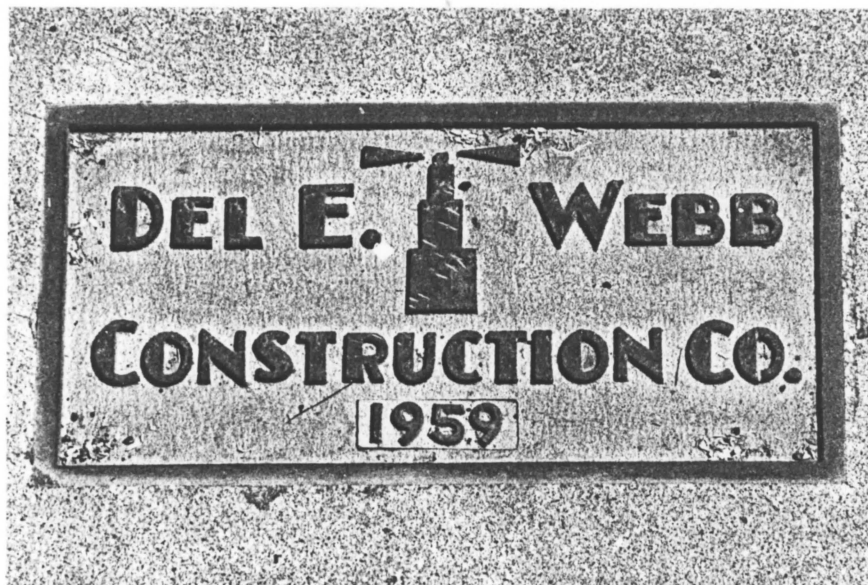
While many of the original members have died, there are still 264 Pioneer members by last count according to Evelyn Parry, secretary. Organized by Rev. Walter Witt in 1961 to celebrate the traditions of the greatest retirement community in the world, membership is now restricted to those living here up to 1965.

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Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Thursday, June 22, 1989

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DAILY NEWS SUN PHOTO — Patricia Williams



Brass plate in driveway 10801 Oakmont Ave

# Ring the bell for our freedoms

By JAN MITTELSTADT  
News-Sun editor

SUN CITY — Tomorrow is the 213th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. It is also the 213th anniversary of the Great Seal of the United States.

It's July 4th or Independence Day. It is — or should be — a day of great jubilation, rejoicing, and thanks. It's a day to celebrate the freedoms we enjoy as Ameri-



Mittelstadt cans, freedoms that are too often taken for granted.

It's a day to fly your flag, ring the bell, watch the fireworks and reread the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

It's a day to think about self-evident truths: "That all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

It's a day to think about we

## Sidesteps

the people and our duties and rights as discussed in the Preamble of the Constitution:

"We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

It's also a day to enjoy, however you want to define that.

But for once since I came to work in the the Sun Cities, I have started the Fourth with ringing the bell. I will again this year.

"Ring That Bell" is a great way to start the day. As usual, it will take place from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Del Webb Memorial Garden at Bell Recreation Center, 16820 99th Ave.

There's singing, talking and ringing. This year, Jane Freeman will give the keynote address. Jane is a wonderful, tal-

ented, interested and interesting person, as well as the vice president of the Sun Cities Historical Society. I'm sure she'll have worthwhile things to listen to.

The singing has included "God Bless America" and other patriotic songs in the past and no doubt will again, led by very talented Sun Cities.

The ringing is for all of us. After the ceremony, all those who attend are invited to ring the replica of the Liberty Bell. It's fun.

The rest of the day is yours.

In the evening, you might want to go to the jazz concert at Beardsley Park Recreation Center in Sun City West. It starts at 7:30 p.m.

Or, there's a celebration, starting at 6 p.m., at the Peoria High School campus. There will be entertainment and fireworks. There's also a fireworks show in Surprise at dusk at the Bicentennial Park on Nash Street, near Crossroads Shopping Center.

Or, you can go to a baseball game at the Sun City Stadium. Game time is 7 p.m. It's the first baseball game to be played in

the stadium at 111th and Grand in four years. The game is the 1989 All-Star game of the Men's Senior Baseball League. The gates open at 6 p.m.

The Fourth of July is a big birthday party for the United States of America. It's a holiday to be enjoyed by all who are or want to be Americans.

We have a great deal to celebrate.

...

The News-Sun is also taking a holiday Tuesday. No paper will be published. It's one of six publication holidays observed each year.

Our office will close at 5 p.m. today and will reopen at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

Not all reporters and photographers will be on holiday, however. Christine Seliga, Veronica Greenwell, Mollie Hoppes and Patrick Knight will be covering various events in the area that day. You can read all about them on Wednesday.

...

Have a glorious, flag-waving Fourth of July. Happy birthday, America!

# Northwest cities plan July 4 celebrations

## News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Independence Day activities in the Northwest Valley are diverse, with various festivities scheduled throughout the day and evening.

The events are:

### Sun City

- The Sun City Elks have planned a traditional July 4 picnic with a thieves market, outdoor games, food and drink under a striped tent at 10760 W. Union Hills Drive. Events are open to the public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today.

Peoria Mayor Ron Travers, Exalted Ruler Robert Boosman and Club Manager and Chef Bill Clark will get dipped in the Dunk Tank to raise funds for Elks' Long Term Care Unit in Tucson and the Elk's National Foundation. Travers is to be available for dunking at 11 a.m.

Fifty exhibitors have booked spaces and will begin setting up at 6 a.m.

There'll be sack and three-legged races and horse shoe pitching in addition to the dunking competition.

Hotdogs, hamburgers, soft drinks and beer will be available in the tents or in the air-conditioned clubhouse.

- Ring That Bell, the traditional Fourth of July ceremony of Sun City will take place from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Del Webb Memorial Garden at Bell Recreation Center, 16820 99th Ave.

Jane Freeman, vice president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, will deliver the keynote address. The Rev. V. Martz of First Presbyterian Church will offer the Invocation and the American Legion Post 101 will parade the colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lucy Hays and pianist Rea Winters will lead the audience in singing patriotic songs before spectators, lead by the children

this year, will get to ring the replica of the Liberty Bell.

Sponsors are The Recreation Centers of Sun City, The Sun City Host Lions Club and the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

- At 7 p.m. in Sun City Stadium, 111th and Grand Avenues, the first pitch in four years will be thrown during the 1989 All-Star Game of the Men's Senior Baseball League.

Admission is free for those 16 and under, \$1 for adults. Spectators are asked to bring a can of food for St. Mary's Food Bank. There will be concessions and a first-aid station. No coolers are permitted.

### Sun City West

- Doctor Sasparilla's Red Hot Jazz Band will play a free concert at 7:30 tonight in Beardsley Park, 128th and Beardsley Avenues, Sun City West.

Dixieland favorites are provided by the group of professional musicians, some of whom have played with big name band leaders even in New Orleans. They will perform in the gazebo and parade on the concrete dancefloor.

The concert is furnished by the Del Webb Corp. There will be no fireworks this year.

Spectators are to take chairs or blankets; coolers are permitted.

### Peoria

- The City of Peoria has scheduled a full evening of events for the whole family including free watermelon, games, pizza eating contest, 50s and 60s dances, entertainment and a children's parade.

The action will be on the Peoria High School athletic field. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. Events begin at 6 p.m. There will be food booths.

Boy Scout Troup 462 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post

No. 2135 will present the colors; the Fort Huachuca Honor Guard will be the color guard.

Ground and aerial fireworks are scheduled for 9 p.m.

### Glendale

- In Glendale the holiday celebration begins at 9 a.m. in Sahuaro Ranch Park, 9802 N. 59th Avenue. Disabled American Veterans Ch. 20 will raise the flag and city officials will present patriotic readings.

At 1:30 p.m. swimming will be free in the city's six pools.

Band entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m. in Glendale Community College Stadium, 6,000 Olive Avenue. Parking is provided at 63rd and Olive Avenues.

A 40-minute aerial and ground display of \$14,000 worth of fireworks will begin at 9:30 p.m. at Glendale Community College.

### Surprise

- A fireworks display is scheduled for dusk in Surprise's Bicentennial Park, Nash and Elm Streets. It will last for 45 minutes and cost the community \$2,200.

The free seating is in bleachers.

### Litchfield Park

- In Litchfield Park at the Wigwam Resort, north of Indian School and Litchfield Road, hot dogs, beer and plenty of ice cream will be served beginning at 5 p.m. This will be followed at 9 p.m. with a half-hour fireworks display.

### Westridge Mall

- Westridge Mall, 75th Avenue and Thomas Road, will have entertainment inside the mall beginning at 2 p.m.

Starting at 6 p.m., bands will play in the south parking lot. Fireworks will begin at 9 p.m.

# Are we learning history's lesson?

By JANE FREEMAN

SUN CITY — If it had not been for historians and archivists, we would not be able to reflect on our past and appreciate our heritage. So it is today in Sun City and Sun City West.

Being one of the founders and past president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, I cannot help but wonder what we can preserve so that generations to come will enjoy looking back on our history and what we pioneered in these retirement communities.

In January 1990, Sun City's 30th birthday, we plan to dedicate our permanent headquarters at 10801 Oakmont Drive, in the very first home built in Sun City. As you may have read in the newspapers, we have received a grant from the J.G. Boswell Foundation, which enabled us to make this purchase.

But this is a matching grant and we must now raise \$30,000. Needless to say, your support will be greatly appreciated and will help us to carry out our motto, "Today is tomorrow's history."

Let me spend the next bit of time on the future, but to do so I again go back to history.

Those of you who have read Edward Gibbons' *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, will remember he set forth some basic reasons why that great civilization fell.

Some of the reasons were the deterioration of the home, which is the basis of a healthy society; more and more taxes; spending more tax monies for welfare; an increased desire for pleasure; sports getting more violent and immoral; spending for arms instead of building individual responsibility; the decay of religion and the loss of faith and the power to guide people. Sound familiar?

The average age of the world's great civilizations has been about 200 years and they all went through the following states:

- Bondage to spiritual faith;
- Spiritual faith to great courage;
- Courage to liberty;
- Liberty to abundance;
- Abundance to selfishness;
- Selfishness to complacency;
- Complacency to apathy;
- Apathy to dependence;
- Dependence back into bondage.

Remember, we celebrated our 200th anniversary in 1976.

Have we reached the stage where the apathy of our people is leading us to dependence and ultimately to bondage?

Look around you at the multitude of Americans who would rather be on welfare than work, and the even greater number who look to our government for protection from every conceivable problem.

If history does repeat itself, and if I were among the young people of today, I would be worried.

But at my age, I am optimistic, and to end on a quote from Dwight D. Eisenhower: "There is nothing wrong with America that faith, love of freedom, intelligence and the energy of her citizens cannot endure."

The above are excerpts from a speech made by Jane Freeman at the annual ball singing ceremony, July 4, 1989.



# Sun Life

SERVING ACTIVE ADULTS  
IN THE  
NORTHWEST VALLEY

MAGAZINE

Formerly SUN CITIES LIFE MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1989

## NORTHWEST VALLEY, *from Page 25*

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold its annual meeting and program at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, in Swain Hall, First Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave.

Featured speakers will be J.G. Boswell II and Henry (Hank) Raymond.

Boswell will recall the early days of the tract of land known as the Marinette Ranch, which was sold to the J.G. Boswell Co. of Los Angeles in 1936, and how machines replaced the local residents who planted the fields with cotton and lettuce. This endeavor converted what had been the community of Marinette into the most prosperous plantation in the country until the Boswells released the acreage to Del Webb.

Raymond served as general manager of the Boswell operation in Arizona. Considered one of the top men in water management in Arizona, he previously served as engineer and manager of the Maricopa County Municipal Water District (Beardsley Irrigation District) and was president of the Central Arizona Project Association for several terms.

The meeting is open to the public.

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Monday, Aug. 7, 1989 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

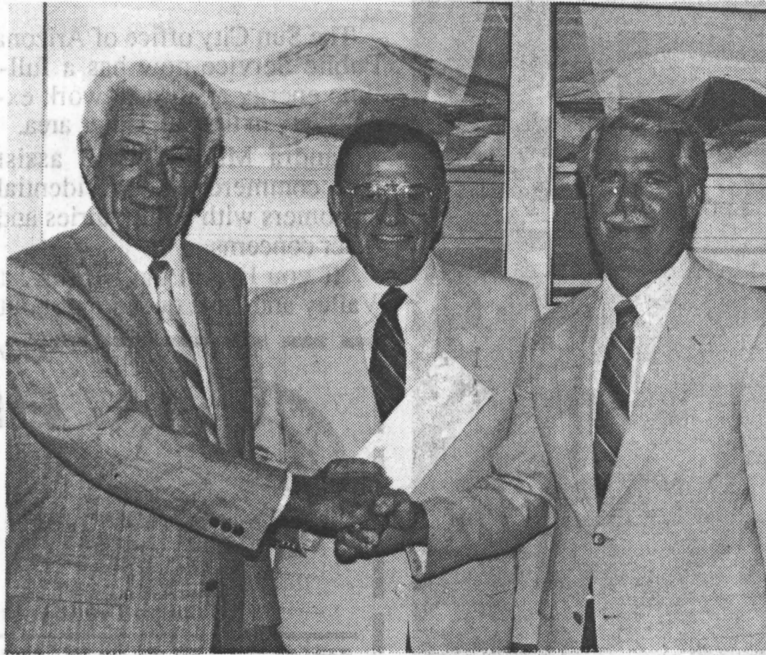
## Historical Society receives \$5,000

SUN CITY — The Del Webb Corp. recently gave a \$5,000 contribution to the Sun City Historical Society.

The society has acquired one of the first Sun City model homes at 10801 Oakmont Ave. The home will be preserved as a historic landmark and the society will move its office there.

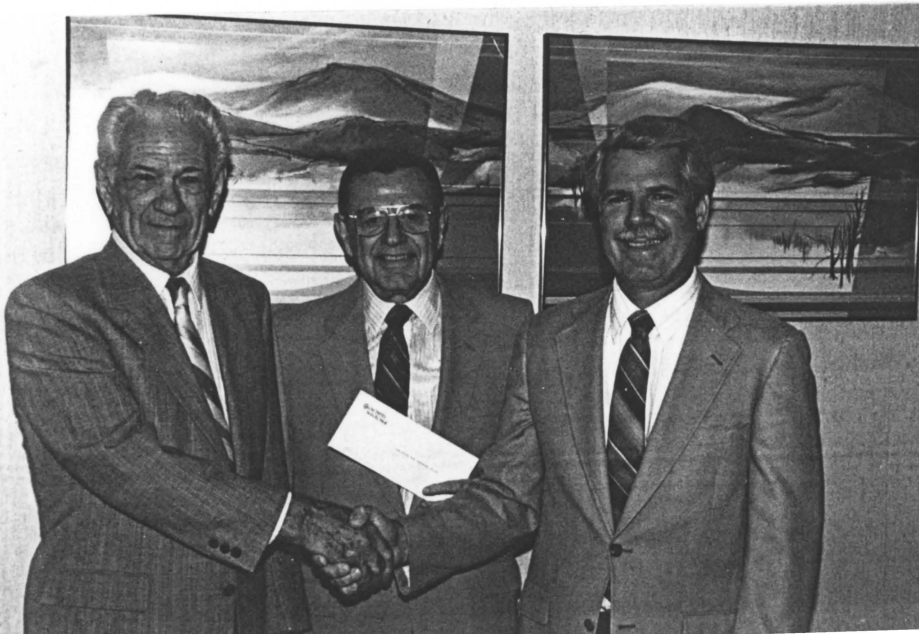
The donation will help defray some of renovation costs with Del Webb additionally contributing some building materials and furnishings. Webb is the developer of the Sun Cities.

The society plans to be settled in its new location for the 30th anniversary of Sun City in January 1990.



**WEBB DONATES** to Historical Society. Sun Cities Historical Society board members Les Merydith, left, and Al Thompson, center, accept a \$5,000 contribution from Chuck Roach, Del Webb Corporation vice president and general manager of Sun City West. The donation will be used to renovate one of the first model homes ever built in Sun City. The home was recently purchased by the Society and will be turned into a museum and office.

Sept. 6-12, 1989, THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT-Page 9



## Webb donates \$5,000 to SC Historical Society

The Del Webb Corporation has presented the Sun Cities Historical Society with a \$5,000 contribution.

The organization recently acquired one of the first Sun City model homes. The home will be preserved as a historical landmark and the Historical Society will move its offices there.

The donation is expected to help defray some of the renovation costs.

"It is important the history of Del Webb's Sun City be preserved, as it is the world's first active adult community and served as a prototype for other such communities worldwide," says Chuck Roach, Webb vice president.

Page 4 THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT, Aug. 2-8, 1989



Daily News-Sun photo by Stephen Chernek

**HISTORIANS' OFFICE** — The Del Webb Corp. recently gave the Sun Cities Area Historical Society \$5,000 to remodel quar-

ters at 10801 Oakmont Ave. Also donated, equipment shown with Al Thompson and Jane Freeman.

# Society relocates in the original Sun City home

**Daily News-Sun staff**

SUN CITY — The first house built in Sun City soon will be the office of a group dedicated to preserving the history of the retirement community.

Members of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society moved into the Sun City landmark Tuesday, bringing with them books, photographs and stacks of other memorabilia.

The house, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, is the first of five models built by Del Webb in 1959 and put on the market in January 1960, said Jane Freeman, Historical Society vice president.

Freeman said the two-bedroom, one-bath house was purchased by the group with the help of a \$30,000 matching grant from the J.G. Boswell Foundation.

"The home has been for sale for several years, but we were

only able to purchase it after we got the grant. Now we have a headquarters to help preserve the history of Sun City," Freeman said. "In 100 years from now, people will be able to come here and find out all they want to know about Sun City. That's the purpose of a historical society — to preserve history."

The society, which was incorporated as a tax-exempt organization more than two years ago, moved into an office in the Plaza del Rio Medical Center in January.

Freeman said the office will officially open in January during Sun City's 30th anniversary celebration festivities.

She said the group will then initiate a fund-raising campaign to collect the additional \$30,000 needed to complete the purchase of the home.

"We are very excited about this. It makes us a little more





Daily News-Sun photo by Frances Guarino

## THE BIG MOVE — Jane Freeman and Al Thompson, Sun Cities Area Historical Society boardmembers, look through

visible and gives us the chance to permanently store things," Freeman said. "This will be a place historians can do research and visitors can come."

Among the memorabilia collected by the society is a copy of all but one of the Sun City

telephone directories since 1961. Freeman said the group is still trying to find a 1963 phone directory to put on display.

Freeman said individuals and business owners in the community have donated carpeting, furniture and other items for

boxes Tuesday after the group moved into its new office, 10801 Oakmont Drive, in one of the first model homes.

the office.

Al Thompson, treasurer of the board, said group members volunteered long hours to clean the house before materials were moved in.

"It was really a mess when

we bought it, but now it looks great. This home will make a lot of difference to the organization," Thompson said. "There are a lot of people who don't know we are in existence and this will help publicize our efforts."

# Sun City Pioneers meet to reminisce

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Robie Chambers remembers Jan. 10, 1960, as if it were yesterday.

It was her 37th wedding anniversary. And it was the day she and her husband, George, bought one of the first homes in Sun City.

"We were just passing through Mesa and we heard about Sun City, so we decided to take a look," Chambers said. "That same day we were one of those couples standing in line with our check waiting to buy a home in Sun City from Del Webb."

Chambers said there were five model homes from which to choose and soon-to-be residents also got to pick where they wanted their home built.

Chambers and her husband, now deceased, selected a two-bedroom home near the North Golf Course off the 6th green.

"This area originally was a cotton field and the land was

just plowed up to fit in the houses. Sun City offered so many promises. It was just an entire different way of life," Chambers said.

Now, these Sun City originals meet twice a year to talk about old times and share the nostalgia of the community's roots.

The group, made up of residents who moved to Sun City more than 23 years ago, was established in 1973, said member Margaret Diggs.

Diggs, who moved to Sun City in October 1961, said the club was originally open to residents who moved to the retirement community in 1960 and 1961.

As membership decreased, the club opened to associate members who moved to Sun City from 1962 to 1965.

The group gets together twice a year for a luncheon and breakfast coffee.

"We have no dues or no formal business, but all the same, meeting is important to us,"



Daily News-Sun

**EARLY SETTLERS** — Evelyn Parry, left, and Margaret Diggs review the membership list of the Sun City Pioneers. The group is made up of residents who moved to Sun City more than 23 years ago.

Diggs said.

This month, the group will meet for the annual luncheon and members are encouraged to bring their Sun City friends,

Diggs said.

The luncheon is at noon, Saturday, Oct. 28 in the Lakeside Banquet Center. For more information call 933-2698.



Stephen Chernel/Daily News-Sun

Sun City Pioneers Bertha Myers, left, and Florence Sears look at a display of photographs from Sun City's beginning at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, housed in the first model home, 10801 Oakmont Drive. Sears and Myers have both lived in Sun City since 1960.

"I've had more fun," Meredith said. "You know it (the dress kind of changes your personality.)"

Realtor Stan Podlasek, a retired mortician, paraded around in an old-time black funeral director's suit and tie.

"There's been lots of action (in Dodge City)," Podlasek said.

Meredith and her fellow saloon girls tried their hands at square-dancing with the Westerners square-dance club. "I liked it well enough I think I'll give it a whirl sometime," she said.

Lucy Hays wore her 45-year-old glitter embellished cowgirl boots while performing Friday morning with the Senior Serendipity Doo Dah band at the Sun Bowl Plaza.

"I used to really ride a horse in those boots," she said.

Maxine and John Turnbull of Sun City and about 30 fans of singer Hays brought their own lawn chairs to hear the group, which featured two guitars, two banjos, a clarinet and bass. The audience smiled, clapped and tapped their toes to the country-western and pre-rock era classics.

Reminiscing, not music, drew about a dozen Sun City pioneers to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society headquarters Friday. The pioneers — Sun City's first residents — were honored at a tea in the retirement community's first model home.

Berth Myers, Mildred Told-

rian, Florence Sears, Evelyn Parry and others who moved to Sun City in 1960 and 1961 chatted about the "good old days when, they said, Sun City was a "close-knit town."

The pioneers talked of how they would gather for holidays like Thanksgiving, for a strawberry festival on Mother's Day and a root beer bust on Father's Day, all on the patio at Oakmont Recreation Center; how they still drive by their first Sun City homes to see how they've changed; and how they dealt with "cotton bugs" and dirt and dust from nearby cotton fields that would blow into their homes during storms.

"We were always cleaning. If it wasn't bugs it was dust," Sears said.



## Society seeks artifacts for planned displays on Sun Cities history

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society soon will be moving into its permanent headquarters in Sun City — 10801 Oakmont Ave. — the first home built nearly 30 years ago in that retirement community.

Exhibits, which will be open to the public, are in the planning stages.

Toward that end, society members have gathered a considerable amount of material about the Sun Cities but are looking for information and artifacts relating to the era prior to the development of the current communities.

The society is looking for archival

material, memorabilia, photographs, newspaper items and road signs — especially the Santa Fe Railway sign “Marinette” that related to the time of the Boswell ranching operation, the town of Marinette and even items dating before that period, society President Glenn Sanberg said.

“We are also interested in talking with people who lived in the Marinette area or worked there and those who could possibly give us information,” he said.

Anyone who has information or items to donate or loan is asked to call 933-2698 or 974-5377.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1989

1-W



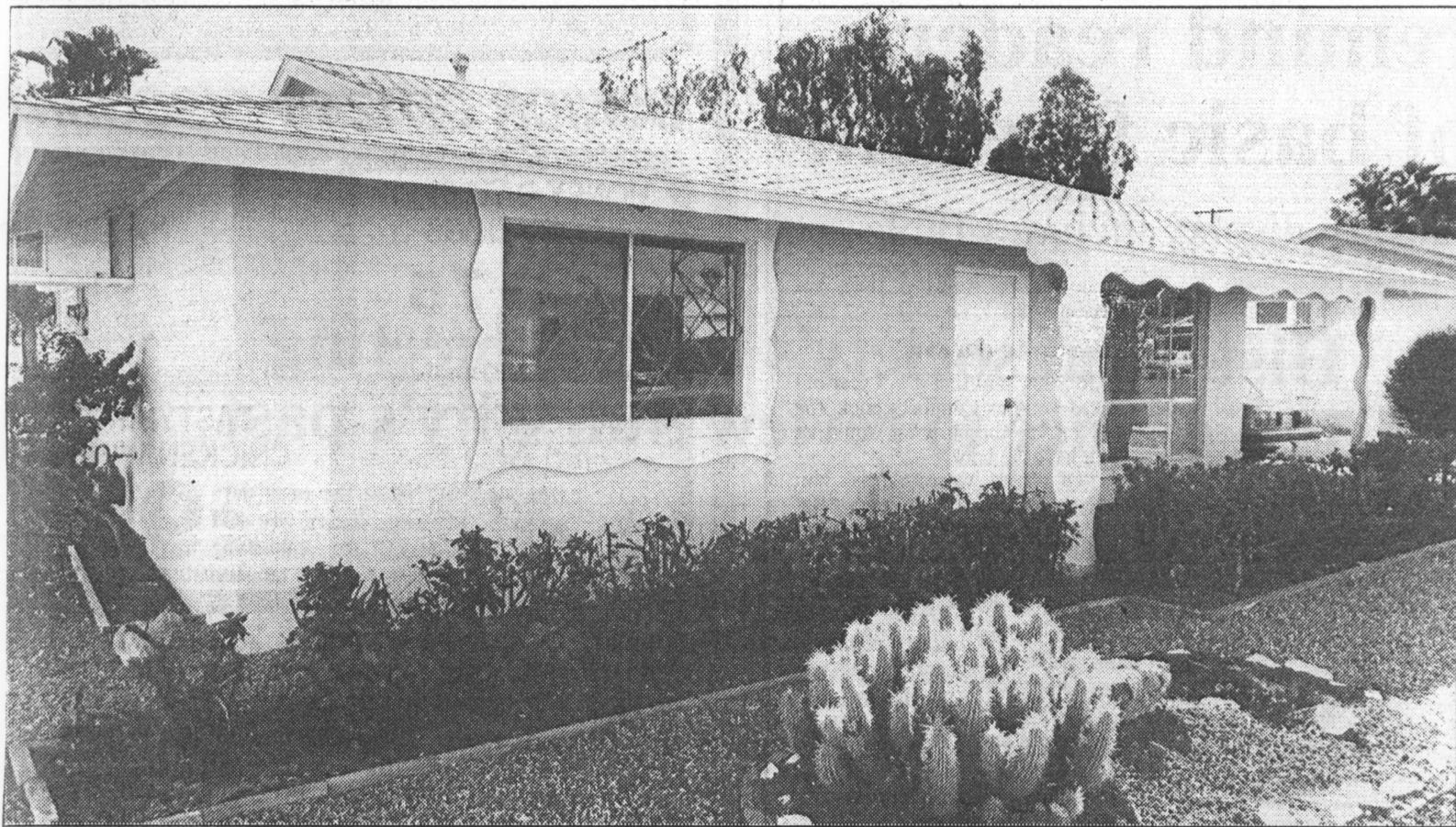
## Historical Society Seeks Help

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will soon be moving into its permanent headquarters at 10801 Oakmont Avenue - the first home built in Sun City. Exhibits, open to the public, are now in the planning stage. But, with the exception of model home information, there is a dearth of memorabilia for Sun City West.

Westers.... do any of you out there have snapshots of the early development phases, a copy of the first menu at Crestview Restaurant, a program from the first show at the Sundome? Who were the first people to move into a SCW home?

Construction photos of shopping centers, churches, activities? Who were some of the early community leaders? Any pictures of "pre-Sun City West", e.g., Lizard Acres, farm land, highway signs, etc..

Anyone having any items of interest or think they have something that should be considered, and are willing to give it to the Society are asked to call 933-2698 or 974-5377.



Bayard Horton/Special for the Arizona Republic

Sun City's first model home, at 10801 Oakmont Ave., will become the retirement community's headquarters and museum.

# Historical society at home in artifact

## Museum is in 1st Sun City model

By Phyllis Gillespie  
The Arizona Republic

Most historical artifacts are stored in museums. In the case of the Sun City Historical Society, the museum is the major artifact.

Through the support of the J.G. Boswell Foundation, the Del Webb Corp., and other groups and individuals, the historical society has purchased Sun City's first model home as its headquarters and museum. The house is at 10801

Oakmont Ave.

Area residents can learn more about the history of their community at the society's annual meeting on Nov. 8. The meeting is open to the public.

The society, which is a tax-exempt corporation, recently moved into the house, and members have started unpacking mementos that will be displayed in the museum. Now that it has a permanent

— See **HISTORICAL**, page 9  
OVER



Rita Wright rummages through some of the files that contain the early history of Sun City, which was established nearly 30 years ago.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1989

1W

# Historical society's annual meeting is a chance to review Sun City's past

— HISTORICAL, from page 1

address, the society also is looking for more artifacts, especially from the era before the development of Sun City.

Established nearly 30 years ago as the nation's first "active retirement community," Sun City now has about 46,000 residents. The neighboring Sun City West is still being developed and so far has about 19,000 residents.

But before Del Webb brought his bulldozers and carpenters to the far northwest Valley, others had tried to develop the area, said society President Glenn B. Sanberg.

R.P. Davie, a business adventurer from Marinette, Wis., tried to make a go of ranching between the Agua Fria

and New rivers, Sanberg said.

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. established a compound in the settlement of Marinette for its Southwest Cotton Co. and in 1936 sold the 20,000-acre Marinette Ranch to the J.G. Boswell Co.

That ranch eventually became Sun City. A cattle-feeding lot called Lizard Acres became Sun City West.

James G. Boswell II and Henry "Hank" Raymond will turn back the calendar and reminisce about the early days in Sun City at the society's annual meeting, which will be held at 2 p.m. in Swain Hall at First Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave.

Boswell will recall the early days when the Marinette Ranch was sold to the J.G. Boswell Co., converting the community of Marinette into one of the most prosperous plantations in the country, Sanberg said.

Raymond, an expert in water management, served as general manager of the Boswell operation in Arizona. He also served as president of the Central Arizona Project Association for several terms.

Sanberg said he expects the two men who watched Sun City emerge from the Marinette cotton fields to be able to fill in many aspects of the community's history that have never been revealed to the public.



**SUN CITIES AREA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

1989



**ANNUAL MEETING**

Wednesday, November 8  
2:00 P.M.

Swain Hall - First Presbyterian Church  
12225 103rd Avenue

**PROGRAM FEATURING**

*James G. Boswell II — Henry (Hank) Raymond*

Who operated the Boswell Ranches long before Sun City Began . . .

- Marinette - how it grew and why it died
- The partnership with Del Webb in the Sun City project
- What about the future?

*Come hear these two outstanding leaders reminisce and perhaps reveal some new stories about the thrilling beginnings of this retirement paradise . . .*

**The Public Is Invited!**



# Sun Citians recall early days

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — James G. Boswell II and Henry "Hank" Raymond will turn back the calendar and reminisce about the early days in Sun City at the annual meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Swain Hall

of First Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave.

Glenn Sanberg, president of the society, said the meeting is a rare opportunity for area residents to "hear Boswell recall the early days.

"This is a rather unusual meeting because these men do not get in front of the public

much," Sanberg said.

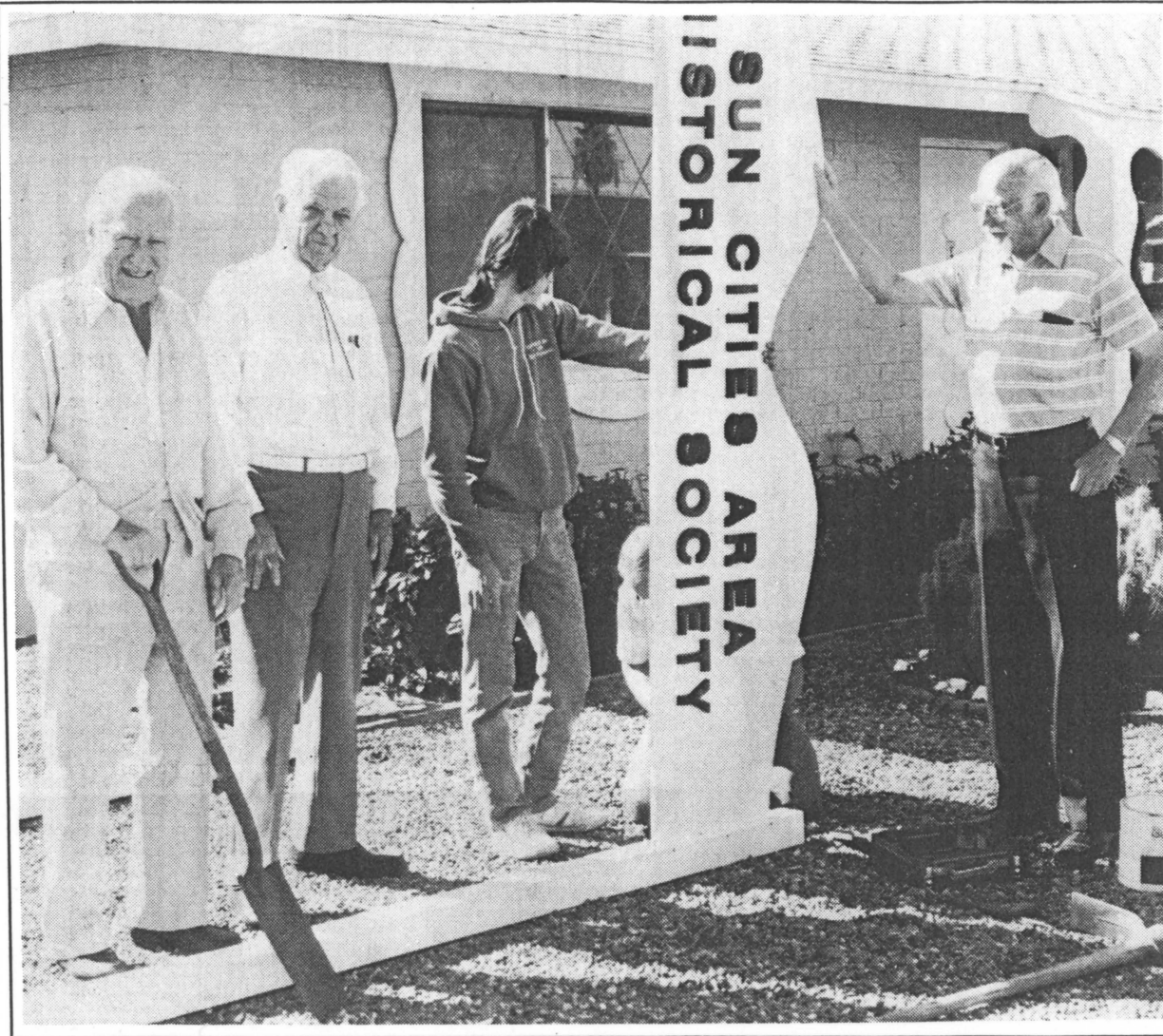
A tract of land known as the Marinette Ranch was sold to the J.G. Boswell Co. in 1936. Boswell converted Marinette into one of the most prosperous plantations in the country.

Also at the meeting, the society will elect trustees to the board to fill four vacancies.

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Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Thursday, Nov. 2, 1989 Community A5

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**A SIGN OF THE TIMES.** The Sun Cities Historical Society last week installed a sign at its headquarters on Oakmont Drive, Sun City. The building was the very first model home ever built in Sun City. Assisting in the project are, from left, Glenn B. Sanberg, president of the Sun Cities Historical Society; Les Merydith, chairman of the building committee; Emil C. Fischer, architect. The Sign Makers in Youngtown donated the sign.

The first model home built in Sun City was purchased by the **Sun Cities Area Historical Society** last April and will be converted into an historical headquarters. Historical documents and memorabilia will be housed at the model known as The Kentworth, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive.

The purchase was made possible by a matching grant of \$30,000 by the James G. Boswell Foundation and \$5,000 from Del Webb Communities, Inc. The matching funds, expected to be met by trustees, members and persons interested in historical projects, will be used to renovate the building and pay off the mortgage. Memberships are available, ranging from Individual (\$10) to Life (\$250).

During the summer, retired librarians Agnes Fansler and Jeann Woodford sorted and catalogued many of the items to be stored at the new headquarters. The Society is seeking information, photos, stories and memorabilia about the town of Marinette from the early 1920s through the time it was sold and became Sun City. Also needed is early Sun City and Sun City West (including Lizard Acres) material plus identified photos.

The headquarters will make it possible to conduct regular public displays of significant historical information involving the people and events of the early years in the two Sun Cities. Plans are underway for a formal dedication in January 1990, when Sun City celebrates its 30th anniversary.

Funds and volunteers are needed to complete the necessary repairs and renovations as well as the every-

day operation of the headquarters.

Persons wishing to make a tax-exempt contribution may send their gift to Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 16828 99th Ave., Sun City, Az. 85351. For more information, call 977-9961, 972-9310, 977-1775 or 974-5377.



# UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES



Do you know who these people are? Do you know when this picture was taken? Do you know the reason behind the photograph? Readers who have any information pertaining to this photo are asked to contact the Sun Cities Historical Society, 933-2698 or 977-7691. Each week the Independent will publish a different photograph from the archives of the Historical Society, in an effort to assist the organization in identifying old photos. At least this much is known: this particular photo was taken at the Town Hall Library (now known as the Fairway branch of the Sun City Library).

Page 6-THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT, July 19-25, 1989

ltn

- 1.
- 2.
3. Jerry Costin
4. Charles Nearman
5. John McClelland

opening week  
S.C. Library  
LAKEVIEW Center  
1973



# UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES



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Aug. 2-8, 1989, THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT-Page 9

Jack Farrell, N.Y. Yankee Scout (?)

Del E. Webb

# UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES



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- l to n
1. Louis Inwood, early S.C. community leader
  2. Herbert Merman
  3. Florence Merman
  4. Ira Murphy (super schools, Peoria)
  5. Mrs. Murphy



# UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES

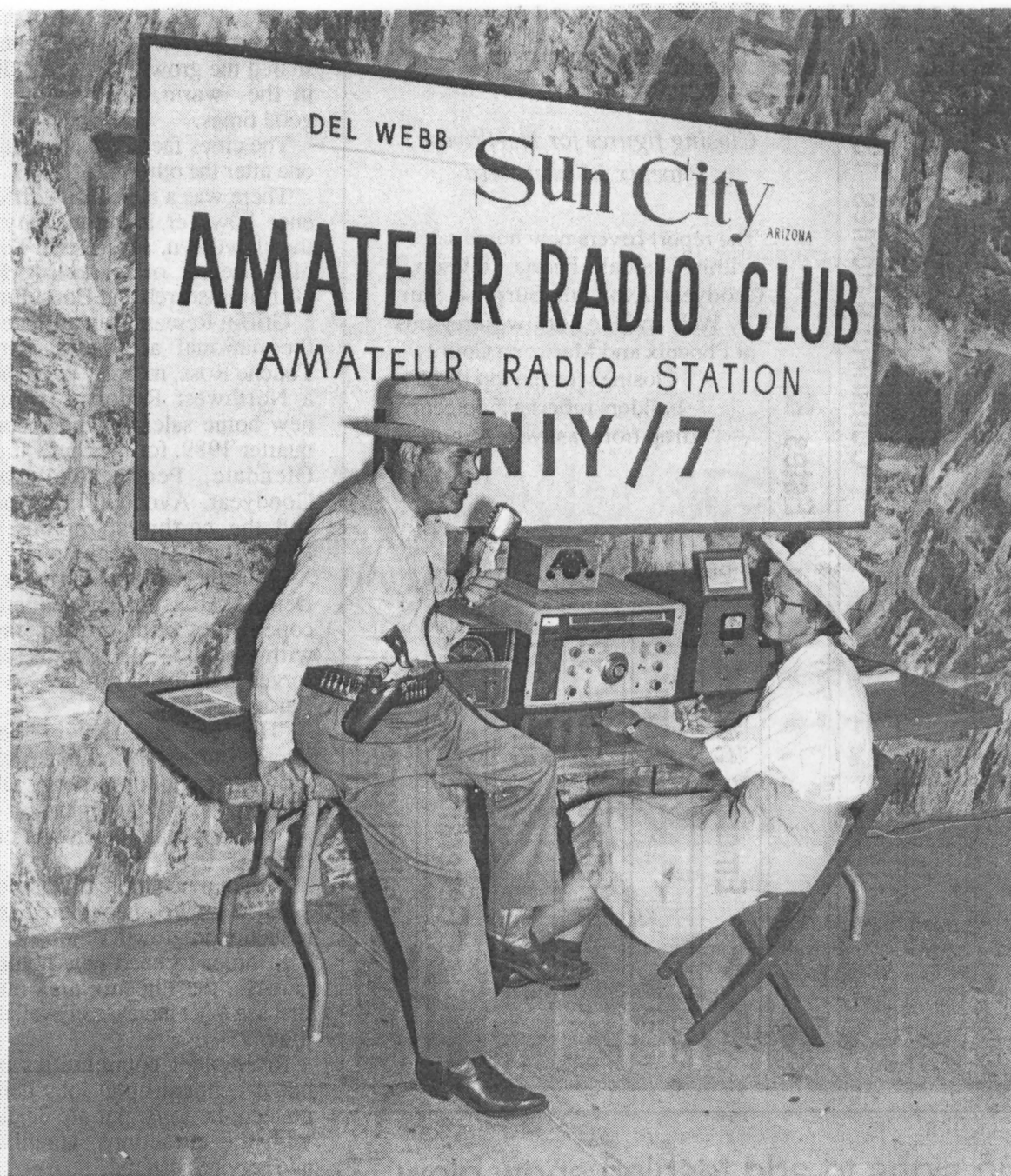


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Page 6-THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT, Sept 20-26, 1989

Benjamin BUTTS Fall 1961  
Going hunting for white tail dove near  
Litchfield PARK (per Mrs. BUTTS)





Do you know who these people are? Do you know when this picture was taken? Do you know the reason behind the photograph? Readers who have any information pertaining to this photo are asked to contact the Sun Cities Historical Society, 933-2698 or 977-7691. Each week the Independent will publish a different photograph from the archives of the Historical Society, in an effort to assist the organization in identifying old photos. At least this much is known: this particular photo involves members of the Amateur Radio Club.

Page 6-THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT, July 26-Aug. 1, 1989

GEORGE MEZEY AND WIFE GEORGIANA  
were Charter Members of Amateur  
Radio Club in early years of 1960,  
and are pictured here with their  
radio equipment of receivers and  
transmitter.

Background wall was built of original  
stone from Mayer, Arizona...  
and the occasion of photo was  
WESTERN DAYS autumn celebration.

# UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES



Do you know when this picture was taken? What was the reason behind the photo? Readers who have any information pertaining to this photo are asked to contact the Sun Cities Historical Society, 933-2698 or 977-7691. Each week the *Independent* will publish a different photograph in an effort to assist the Historical Society in identifying photos in its archives. At least this much is known: The area is an "agricultural area" provided by the Webb Company and is believed to have been located south of the old Hiway House (King's Inn).

Page 6-THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT, Aug. 16-22, 1989

*AGRICULTURAL Club members - 1960-61 Grand Ave.*

- l t r*
- 1.
  - 2.
  3. John DRENTH
  4. James Baker
  - 5.



# UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES



Do you know when this picture was taken? What was the reason behind the parade? Readers who have any information pertaining to this photo are asked to contact the Sun Cities Historical Society, 933-2698 or 977-7691. Each week the *Independent* will publish a different photograph in an effort to assist the Historical Society in identifying photos in its archives. At least this much is known: The parade is being conducted on Peoria Avenue and the photographer is facing west. Today, Fairway Recreation Centers would be on the right and the Sundome Shopping Center is located on the left. If one looks closely, Del Webb can be seen sitting in the center or the reviewing stand.

Bowl

Page 6-THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT, Aug. 9-15, 1989

S.C. 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary Parade



# UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES



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Page 6-THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT, Sept 20-26, 1989

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Page 6-*THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT*, Sept. 13-19, 1989

Mr. Mrs. Leo Wilson (community leader) looking  
over articles allowing joint use of The now  
OAKMONT & Fairway Recreation Centers.



# UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES



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at recently opened South Golf Course 1963

# UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES



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Page 6-THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT, Oct. 4-10, 1989

l to r

1.

2.

3. Marjorie Turnbull

4. Sam Turnbull

Fairway APTS  
in background



## UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES



Do you know when this picture was taken? What was the reason behind the photo? Who are the persons in the picture? Readers who have any information pertaining to this photo are asked to contact the Sun Cities Historical Society, 933-2698 or 977-7691. Each week the *Independent* will publish a different photograph in an effort to assist the Historical Society in identifying photos in its archives

VICTOR SANDBERG

Victor Sandberg



Lottie & Leroy Strong

she was Webb's hostess

circa 1963-41

## UNRESOLVED MYSTERIES



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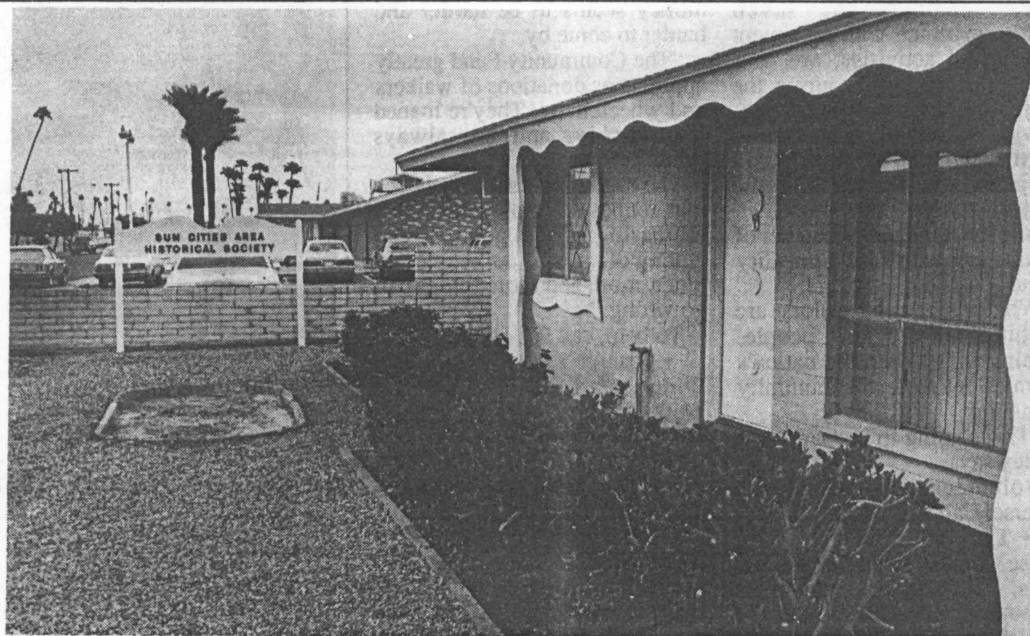
# Then and now ...



Jan. 3-9, 1990, THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT-Page 7



*The Sun Cities Historical Society has officially opened its headquarters in a building which once served as the very first model home for Sun City. The building, located next to the Oakmont Recreation Center on Oakmont Drive, was one of the first buildings ever constructed in Sun City. In both photos, the recreation center is on the left and the model home/Historical Society headquarters is on the right. The photo at left was taken in 1960, soon after Sun City officially opened. The photo above is how the building looks today, surrounding shopping centers and homes.*



**HISTORY IN THE MAKING.** As Sun City celebrates its 30th anniversary this month, the newly-opened Sun Cities Historical Society headquarters and museum will serve as the centerpiece of activities. The building, located at 10801 Oakmont Ave., houses historical data, photographs, old advertisements for Sun City and other items. The home originally served as the very first model home for the Del Webb Corp. when it opened Sun City and was purchased by the Historical Society last year. It has been restored to its original condition and is now open to the public.

Laurie Hurd-Moore/Independent



# Historical Society prepares

By GLENN B. SANBERG  
Daily News-Sun columnist

Would you like to see the first Sun City Telephone Directory published in 1961?

How about those published each year after that — with one exception?

How about perusing hundreds of Del Webb ads appearing in newspapers and magazines across the country telling the story of this new "Active Retirement Community"?

Are you curious about the original brochure announcing the model you selected when you bought your home?

Were you here in 1965 when



Sanberg

## Retired in style

the big celebration of the fifth anniversary took place?

Do you remember the big plastic ash trays the Del Webb people handed out before smoking was a no-no?

How about looking for your picture among those taken at the Strawberry Festivals in the Sun Bowl?

Remember the Sun City Saints — who provided us with near-professional fast-pitch girls softball?

The first Pom Pom Girls?

The new Sun City Area Historical Society headquarters at 10801 Oakmont Ave. will offer the community a peek at its past in a setting of special historical significance on Monday, Jan. 15, at 10 a.m. when the home will be opened to the pub-

lic with appropriate ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

As its door swings open the public will be reminded of Sun City's past, since the home is one of the first of five model homes built by Del Webb in 1959.

The main part of the house, 940 square feet, has been retained: living room, kitchen, two bedrooms and one bath. The house sold for \$8,500, plus \$600 for air conditioning.

The original owners, John and Chloe McDonald, came to Sun City from Colorado and lived in the home for several years. It was eventually sold to Vera Jean Painter as a speculative investment.

In May 1989, the historical society bought the property and has converted it into its headquarters.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Thursday, Jan. 4, 1990 Opinion A7

## for its grand opening

The Arizona room, which was added later, has been converted into a conference room and office.

There are hundreds of pictures, some dating all the way back to the '30s when the tiny village of Marinette was a community of cotton field workers.

Cataloguing of the myriad of these items is in progress and from time to time will be on public display.

The society's new home was made possible by a matching grant of \$30,000 by the Boswell Foundation, a \$25,000 grant from the Del Webb Foundation and \$5,000 from the Del E. Webb Co.

Friends and trustees have also made substantial contributions as have local business and professional firms.

Organized in 1985 with the publication of "JUBILEE, the 25th Anniversary of Sun City," The Sun City Area Historical Society has been the work of a group of dedicated, civic-minded leaders who wished to preserve a significant social change in retirement living.

For the first time since its founding, the Society has centralized the various historical items under one roof. The need now is to continue the work of sorting, cataloguing and displaying the vast amount of historical material contributed by individuals and organizations.

There is an urgent need for volunteers who will spend an hour or two each week. We need hostesses, cataloguers and clerical workers of all kinds, the trustees say.

Now that the center has been established and the story of the glorious history of this unique community can be told to residents and visitors alike, we should be willing to back this enterprise proudly in the only way this city knows how — enthusiastically.

After you have paid a visit to the Society, why not lend a hand as a volunteer? Thirty years has passed by so swiftly we dare not let the history of Sun City be ignored.

Each year brings new and exciting people and events to our community that must be recorded.

If you are not able to volunteer, your membership will be your next best substitute. The address: 10801 Oakmont Drive — the telephone: 974-2568.

## History in the making

*Antique lovers in the early days of Sun City, found the one thing missing from their retirement paradise was a club for antique enthusiasts. On Sept. 26, 1968, the Pioneer Antique Club of Sun City was organized. Helen Gorton was one of the group's first members. Today, Mrs. Gorton is the only remaining active member of the club. She recently presented to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society a plaque commemorating the Antique Club's participation in the Jan. 4, 1976 Bicentennial Parade. The award, which will be included in the Historical Society's archives, was accepted by Society trustee Les Merydith.*



*You are Cordially Invited to Join*

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
of  
Sun Cities Area Historical Society

in a

PREVIEW OPEN HOUSE  
and  
RIBBON CUTTING

Friday, January 12, 1990  
from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

10801 Oakmont Drive  
Sun City, Arizona

R.S.V.P. 974-2568  
*before January 8, 1990*



BEHIND THE RIBBON 1 to r

Glenn Sanberg, Past Pres., Les Merydith, Pres. Carol Carpenter, Maricopa Cnty Bd. Supervisors  
Dr. Walter Witt, 1st minister United Church - 1969, Evelyn Parry 1960 resident



# Turn back

## Webb models reopen doors for anniversary

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — More than 100,000 people filled Oakmont Drive 30 years ago this month as they took a peek at five model homes that showcased Del Webb's concept of active retirement living.

Thousands of residents toured the original homes again Monday as part of a week-long series of events celebrating Sun City's 30th anniversary.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society's new office officially opened to the public after a ribbon-cutting ceremony with local dignitaries.

The office, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, was the first model home built in Sun City. It remained



Daily News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherek

**T-BIRD WATCHERS** — Robert and Dorothy Thorne of Surprise admire a pink 1956 Ford Thunderbird, on display in front of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive. The home was the first Sun City model home.

open Monday along with two other original homes built along Oakmont Drive and South Golf

Course.

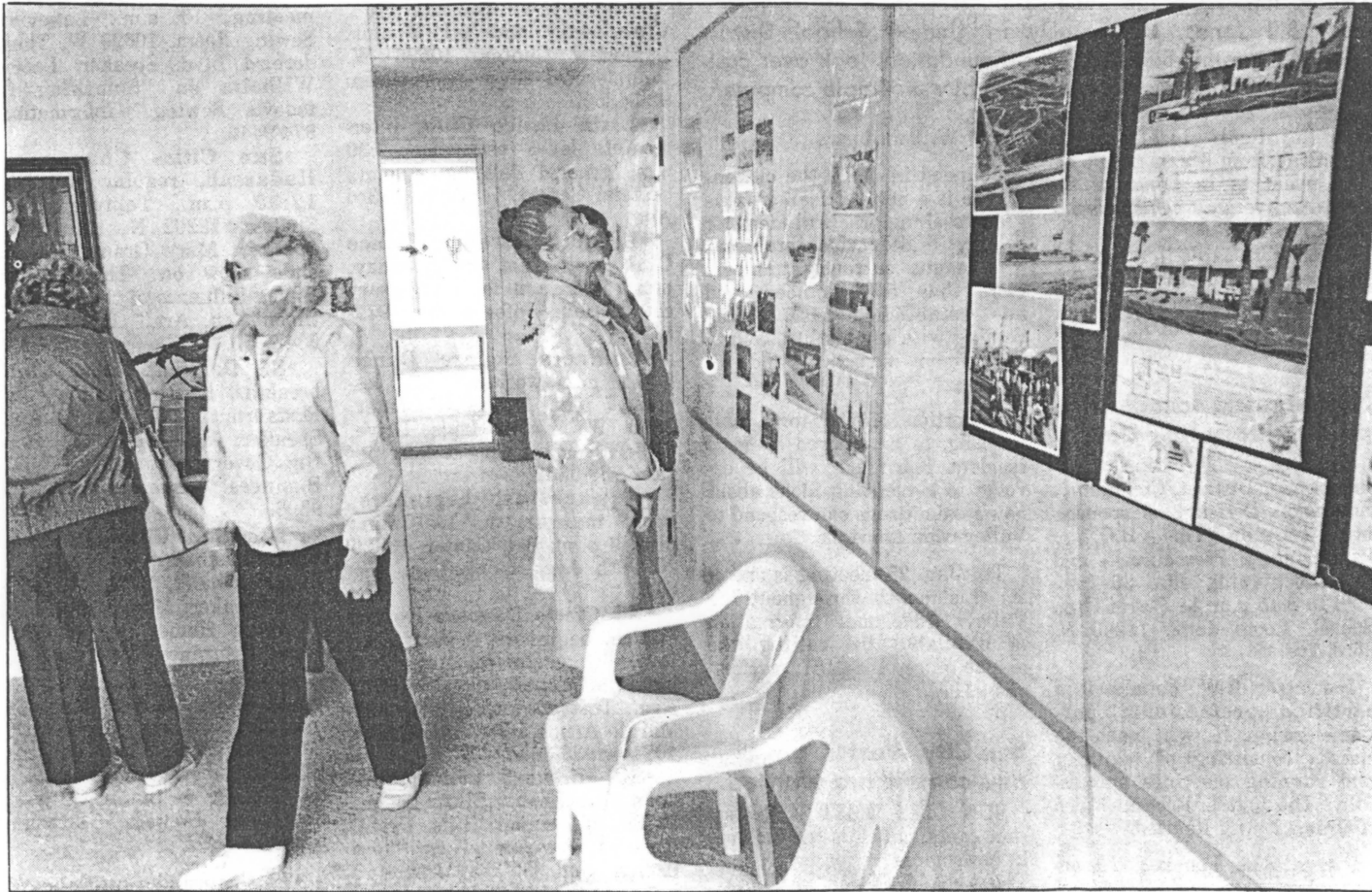
Memorabilia — from old telephone books to a fifth an-

niversary ashtray to a 1979 trophy of the Sun City Saints — See Home, A3

DAILY NEWS-SUN Jan 16, 1990

# Home tour shows off Sun

City originals



Daily News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherek

**HISTORY ON DISPLAY** — The Sun Cities Area Historical Society's new headquarters opened to the public Monday.

Visitors to the house at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive viewed photographs from Sun City's past.



# Historical Society to open Monday

SUN CITY — The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will open Monday to the public.

The society purchased the first model home in Sun City, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, as its headquarters. Beginning Monday, the headquarters will be open from 1 to 3 p.m. weekdays.

Volunteers will serve as guides and answer questions. The society collects, organizes and displays historical memorabilia of the retirement communities.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Saturday, Feb. 17, 1990 Community A3



*MS*  
*#5*

*Chen*



The Del Webb Corporation

and

Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Jointly Sponsor

**HELLO, SUN CITY WEST  
SO-LONG, LIZARD ACRES**

Thursday, April 26, 1990

1:30 to 3:00 PM

Sun City West Community Services Bldg.

*(See map on reverse)*



**PROGRAM FEATURING**

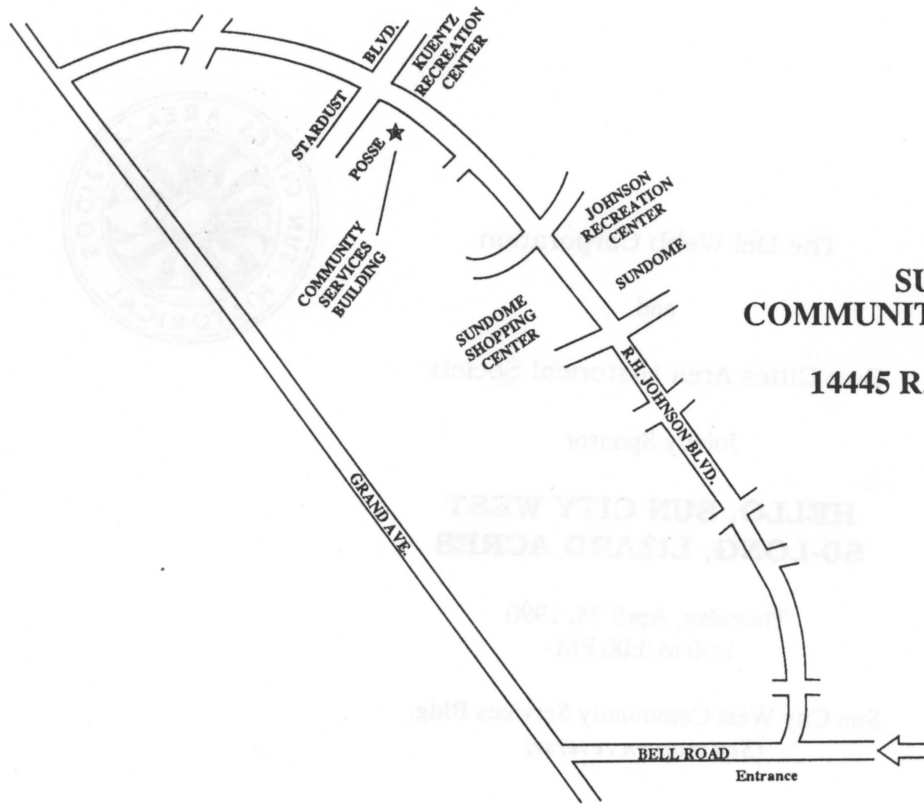
GLORIA GEMMILL ..... *From 1947-1978 lived on the  
land now known as Sun City West*

DICK MASTIN ..... *Del Webb vice president  
in charge of land development*

ANN LOOS RAYMOND ..... *Del Webb Development company  
vice president, 1974-1987*

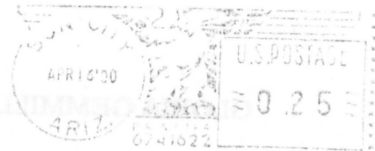
ADMISSION FREE ..... THE PUBLIC IS INVITED

*The headquarters and museum of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, Inc. (SCAHS, Inc.) is open seven days a week, 1:00 to 3:00 PM. The Society occupies the first house that was built by Del Webb in Sun City thirty years ago. It is located at 10801 Oakmont Avenue. For further information call 971-2568.*



**ROUTE TO**  
**SUN CITY WEST**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING**  
**14445 R.H. JOHNSON BLVD.**

Del Webb Corporation – Public Relations  
 P.O. Box 1705  
 Sun City West, AZ 85372-1705



JANE J. FREEMAN  
 10516 PRAIRIE HILLS CIRCLE  
 SUN CITY AZ 85351



# Sun City West gears

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

**SUN CITY WEST** — Long before the retirement community boasted neatly manicured homes and recreation centers, the 11,000-acre tract was home to one of the largest feedlots in the nation.

Del E. Webb Development Co. acquired the majority of land in 1972 from Circle One Livestock Co., also known as Lizard Acres.

J. Charles Wetzler brought the feedlot to the West Valley in the mid-1950s. For nearly 30 years, the company's hay stacks, cattle and corrals abound in what is now thriving Sun City West.

In an effort to preserve Sun

City West's heritage, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society is soliciting the support and enthusiasm of local residents.

The society and Del Webb Corp. are sponsoring a bi-annual meeting Thursday that will feature speakers who have seen the area develop into a renowned retirement community.

The meeting, which is free and open to the public, is from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the Sun City West Community Services Building, 14445 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Martha Moyer, manager of public affairs for Del Webb Corp., said the meeting is the first public effort by the society to start documenting the early

days of Sun City West.

"I think bringing the meeting to Sun City West will truly enhance the presence of the society in the area. The society started in Sun City, but the development of Sun City West is also of historical significance," Moyer said. "Preserving Sun City West's heritage is important now because not too many years from now Del Webb will complete its development in the area and move on."

Moyer said residents are encouraged to give the historical society any item that would help document the community's early days.

Examples are advertisements for homes and photos of ground-

## up to preserve heritage

breaking ceremonies.

"The society members know how to preserve and catalog so the items will not deteriorate further," Moyer said.

A special committee headed by Al Driscoll has been established to head the Sun City West preservation effort.

Driscoll said some residents do not realize that the historical society serves both Sun Cities.

"After the society had its open house during Sun City's 30th anniversary, the board decided it was time to start collecting photographs, tapes and other historical memorabilia of Sun City West," Driscoll said. "A variety of people have indicated that they have boxes of

materials, monthly newsletters and other brochures Webb passed out. It will all probably end up in the garbage if it is not given to us."

The headquarters of the society is based at the first house ever built in Sun City, 10801 Oakmont Avenue. For more information, call 971-2568.

Driscoll, who is a member of the society's 15-member board of directors, said the meeting will feature three speakers: Gloria Gemmill, who lived in the area from 1947 to 1978; Dick Masten, Webb vice president in charge of land development; and Ann Loos Raymond, Webb vice president from 1974 to 1987.

In addition, many pioneer residents will be in attendance.

"It's time to gather this kind of information about the early years while the pioneers are still living," Driscoll said. "Anyone interested in the origins of Sun City West should not miss this meeting."

Ground-breaking ceremonies for the community took place Feb. 15, 1978. Eight months later the first model homes opened to the public. More than 65,000 people visited the community in the first two months.

By 1979, multi-million dollar projects such as Crestview Restaurant, Hillcrest Golf Course and R.H. Johnson Recreation Center were built.



Daily News-Sun

**HISTORY BUFFS** — The Sun Cities Area Historical Society officers are pictured from left, Emil Fischer, vice president; Les Meredith, president; Rita Wright, secretary and Al Thompson, treasurer.

Tuesday, April 24, 1990 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.



Sun City Historical  
Society Board members  
Les Merydith (B) (left)  
and Al Thompson (C)  
accept a \$5,000 contribution  
from Del Webb Coporation  
Vice President and  
Sun City West General  
Manager, Chuck Roach.

# Sun City West gears

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

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# Sun Cities Area Historical Society

## Headquarters Acquisition and Renovation

### Year 1989



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George W. Swanson      Frances C. Thompson  
Pricilla Williams

# Historical group preserves Sun City West memories

By TIFFANY MEANS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Scrapbook in hand, Clarice Uhl reminisced recently during a local historians' meeting featuring speakers who helped establish Del Webb Community Inc.'s second Arizona retirement community.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society along with Webb designed Thursday's program, "Hello, Sun City West — So Long Lizard Acres," to attract Sun City West pioneers like Uhl and her husband, Ed.

The Uhls were the second family to move into the new community. Luman Wick, the first official resident, also attended the meeting.

For awhile, the two lived close to each other. Now residing in different areas, the Uhls and Wick remain friends, Wick said.

"There was a lot of friendship in the early group. Del Webb took us on lots of trips and parties that everybody went on," Wick said.

Historical Society members said those are the memories that they want founding citizens to help them record.

The club wants donations of fliers, brochures, and other memorabilia that can be used to record such events:

About 15 in the 85-member audience could boast a move-in date during late 1978 — which was the official opening year for Sun City West — and early 1979.

The event marked the club's first public attempt to begin documenting the community's growth, said Al Driscoll, Historical Society chairman of the committee for the preservation of Sun City West.

As an introduction, Gloria Gemmel turned back the clock



Daily News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherek

**MEMORY LANE** — Early Sun City West residents Clarice Uhl, left, her husband, Ed, and Luman Wick look at photographs from the community's beginning, after a meeting of the Sun City Area Historical Society Thursday at the Sun City West Community Building.

to pre-Webb development as she described the area when it supported a working community of 45 people.

"Once upon a time, there was a place called Lizard Acres," Gemmel said. The name was the unofficial title given to Circle One Livestock Co., one of the largest feedlots in the nation.

Gimmel and her husband moved to the feedlot shortly after its opening in the late-1940s. Nearly 40 years later, their

home was one of the buildings razed to make way for Webb.

Clarice Uhl and Wick said they enjoyed hearing Gimmel's description of the feedlot.

Dick Mastin, Webb vice president in charge of land development, worked on Sun City West from the project's beginning in 1972.

Mastin, then 23 years old, said he remembers the sense of excitement that pervaded the people planning and construct-

ing the community, a process which took about six years.

After the Webb executives shared their memories, Driscoll asked residents to recollect their own stories and write them or record them for the Historical Society.

Clarice Uhl said she recalls the dirt and the coyotes.

"It was kind of surprising that no one mentioned how much they like it here. I sure do," Uhl said.

# Today is Tomorrow's History

No facility has ever documented the creation of an "Active Retirement" community in American culture as has the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

We are proud to be a part of the Society's work of collecting, displaying and preserving the fascinating story of America's first full-service active retirement community. We

also are proud of our own growth from a sole practitioner to a full-service law firm serving the Sun Cities area since the mid-1960s.

We salute the dedicated people of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society who continue to tell the exciting story of our communities and who make sure that "Today is Tomorrow's History."

## Farrer, Shapiro & Ross, P.C. Attorneys at Law

Robert J. Farrer • Myron Shapiro • Frank L. Ross  
Craig E. Collins • Gary A. Goebel • William J. Howard  
Walter Linton, of Counsel

Royal Oak Mall                      Ph 977-7251  
10225 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City, AZ 85351



# Events keep heritage alive

By Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Arizonans will join the rest of the country in celebrating National Historic Preservation Week Sunday through Saturday.

The theme is "Keeping America's Heritage Alive." Many events are scheduled for today and Sunday.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Ave., will host an open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Exhibits include the historical record of Sun City West (not yet completed).

Refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

Information: 974-2568.

Other area events:

- Cave Creek — Opening of a restored tuberculosis cabin at 10 a.m. today in Cave Creek Museum.

Information: 488-3183.

- Phoenix — "Preservation Fair" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today in the Ellis-Shackleford House, 1242 N. Central Ave., including demonstrations, workshops and product information pertaining to historic homes. Bus transportation from the fair to the Encanto-Palmcroft Historic District Home Tour will be available.

Information: 255-4470.

- Phoenix — hands-on Victorian children's room from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today in Pioneer Arizona Living History Museum.

Information: 993-0212.

- Phoenix — "Step Back in Time," living history tours in the Rosson House, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. today in Heritage Square.

Information: 262-5071.

- Phoenix — walking tour of historic architecture in down-

town Phoenix from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. today. Meet in Heritage Square, Van Buren and 7th Street.

Information: 262-5071.

- Phoenix — walking tours and bake sale in Encanto-Palmcroft Historic District from noon to 4 p.m. today.

Information: 252-3151.

- Phoenix — "Researching Your Historic Home," hands-on workshop from noon to 4 p.m. today in Ellis-Shackleford House. Information: 255-4470.

- Phoenix — walking tour of the Oakland Historic District, including tours of homes, at 10 a.m. Sunday, Arizona Museum, 1002 W. Van Buren St.

Information: 253-2734.

- Phoenix — guided and self-guided tours of historic city cemeteries from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday, Monday, and Friday and May 19 by reservation.

Information: 253-2734.

- Phoenix — "Afternoon in the Square," Rosson House restoration 10th anniversary celebration from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday in Heritage Square.

Information: 262-5071.

- Phoenix — "Victorian Mother's Day Tea Sampler," living history re-enactment from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday in Pioneer Arizona Living History Museum, 10 miles north of Phoenix in I-17.

Information: 993-0212.

- Phoenix — exhibit of National Historic Preservation Week photo contest winners on display Monday through Aug. 31 in State Capitol Museum.

Information: 542-4675.

S.C. Independent

## Historical museum announces hours

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society, located at 10801 Oakmont Ave., is now open seven days a week, from 1-3 p.m. daily.

The society's headquarters also serves as a museum promoting the history of the Sun Cities.

For information, call 974-2569.

Sept. 19-25, 1990 • 25 cents •

# Group preserves Sun City's past

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is organized as a non-profit corporation exclusively for civic and educational purposes. Its task is to collect and preserve the historical data of the Sun Cities area — the transformation of the Marinette cotton ranch and the Lizard Acres cattle ranch into Del Webb's famous retirement communities of Sun City and Sun

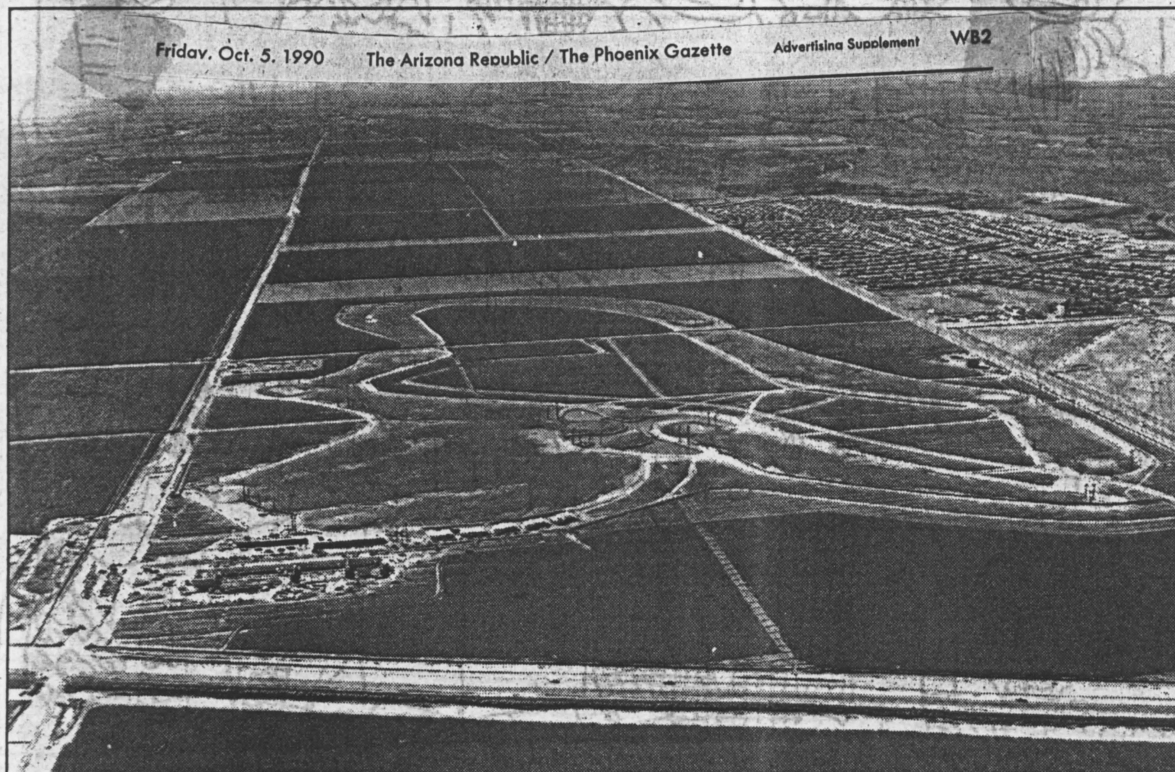
City West, and the history of those people who have lived there over the past 30 years.

Through the support of the J.G. Boswell Foundation, Del Webb Corporation and other groups and individuals, the Society purchased Sun City's first model home, located at 1081 Oakmont Ave., as its headquarters.

SCAHS will hold its semi-an-

nual public meeting at 1:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 12, at the First Presbyterian Church in Sun City. The program will feature "A Walking Tour of Marinette" by Chief Archivist Jane Freeman, and "A Phoenix Carpenter Creates A New Industry," by Jerry Svenson, publisher of *Sun Life* magazine.

For more information about SCAHS, call 974-2568.



Friday, Oct. 5, 1990

The Arizona Republic / The Phoenix Gazette

Advertising Supplement

WB2

IN 1960, Sun City consisted of six model homes on one street. The Sun Cities Historical Society seeks to preserve historical data about the community's beginnings.

# Volunteer applauds co-workers

By Julia Jones  
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Jane Freeman doesn't try to deny that she has done the work. She just wants to throw the spotlight on her co-workers.

"Here in Sun City, there are 12 times 12 times 12 volunteers that should be recognized," she says. "All of these people should be getting the coverage in newspapers and on the radio, and all the TV coverage. Recognizing volunteers and volunteerism is important to society because reaching out and touching others, like the telephone company ads say, that's what's important."

Freeman will be among those honored at the 12 Who Care — Hon Kachina Awards gala Saturday at the Registry Resort in Scottsdale. The awards program, presented annually since 1977, is sponsored by The Luke's Men, a volunteer organization of business and professional people affiliated with St. Luke's Medical and Behavioral Health Centers, and



Randy Reid / Staff photographer

Jane Freeman of Sun City is one of the volunteers who will be honored Saturday at the 12 Who Care — Hon Kachina Awards gala at the Registry Resort in Scottsdale.

KPNX-TV, Channel 12.

Freeman, a Pennsylvania native, retired as a dean of university students in a New York state school. After a life's work in education in the northeast, she says, she hardly expected to end up retired in Arizona, let alone Sun City.

"Like everyone else," she says,

"our first reaction was, 'Who wants to live with all those old people?'"

But the next year, she and her husband visited again. "We were a year older then, and it didn't seem nearly so bad. The idea of Arizona was completely foreign to us, being from the eastern part of the

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1W

Fri., Oct. 26, 1990 The Arizona Republic/THE PHOENIX GAZETTE 7

## VOLUNTEER

From Page 1

country, but we loved the wide open spaces."

They found a house on the outskirts of Sun City. That was in 1970; they joined a town of 18,000.

"We loved it at once," Freeman says. And she's in that same house today, although her husband, Leslie, died 14 years ago, and the population has grown to about 46,000.

Like all newcomers to the Sun Cities, the Freemans made the rounds of the various recreation centers. Then they took classes, learning to work with silver and then lapidary.

"But after a time, all that wears

thin," Freeman says. Her first volunteer involvement was probably serving on a committee at a recreation center, she says. Then, she found herself a member of the center's board of directors. And almost in the twinkling of an eye, she found herself serving as liaison with the Sun City Library, and that connection worked.

"We couldn't do without our volunteers," says Charles Youngman, the Sun City Library director.

Freeman, he says, is a vital member of the program committee, which lines up special presentations each month that draw

more than 100 in audience. "That gives us a visibility that we need," he says.

The library lists a staff of about 250 volunteers, Youngman says. "If we didn't have them, we wouldn't be able to keep our doors open."

Freeman lists as her active associations the Sun City Library, Sun City Historical Society, Sunshine Service Inc., Sun City Meals-on-Wheels, Sun Health Foundation, Sun Health Corp. and the Handi-Capables of Sun City.

"Yes, there are several," she says, laughing. "But I go for diversity; I don't play favorites."





Daily News-Sun photo by Jacque Pappas

**HERE FROM THE START** — Sun City Pioneers Bernice Walker, from left, Dorothy Bell, Florence Sears and Sarah Butts look at Emil Fisher's ink drawings of the churches in Sun City. The drawings and other Sun City memorabilia were on display this week as part of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's open house. The society will be attaching an addition to its office at 10801 Oakmont Drive. The addition is a shed which housed Sun City's first home sales office.

# Local Historical Society rescues SC Pioneers Club

## Club nearly disbanded due to low membership

The Sun City Pioneers Club has a new lease on life.

The club, whose members were among those who moved to Sun City during the early 1960s, announced last month that it was disbanding after 17 years due to dwindling membership.

Thanks to an offer by the Sun Cities Historical Society, the club will continue to meet on a regular basis. According to Les Merydith, president of the Historical Society, the club is welcome to hold its meetings at the home of the Historical Society.

"The Sun City Pioneers Club is too valuable a source of historical data to be allowed to disappear from the local scene," says Mr. Merydith.

"The Society has therefore offered the following services to the Pioneers Club to continue as long as there is one Pioneer left to participate."

The services offered are:

- The Pioneer Club will make available for club use the Society's facilities, including the meeting room, kitchen, filing and copying.
- The Society will perform secretarial service including maintaining the roster and mailings.
- The Society will conduct oral history or VCR-taped interviews with Pioneers who have items of historical significance to record.
- The Society will provide a permanent repository for any items of historical significance that members wish to leave to the Society.
- Members will receive invitations to all meetings and programs.

## Historical Society holds annual meeting

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will have its annual meeting 1:15 p.m. Nov. 16.

The program will be in Swain Hall, First Presbyterian Church, 12225 103rd Ave.

Speakers will be Chief Archivist Jane Freeman and Jerry Svendsen.

The Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, and is open 1-3 p.m. daily (seven days a week).

Call 975-2568.

**Historical open house**  
SUN CITY — Open house, Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 1-3 p.m., Nov. 16. A 30-year resident, Beulah Heuer, will be telling stories and anecdotes. The Historical Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Ave.

# Farewell lunch gives new life for Pioneers

By Connie Cone Sexton  
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Don't play taps yet for the Sun City Pioneer Club, its members say.

During what was to be the final annual meeting of the club Saturday, several members protested the club's proposed demise.

Dozens of the 125 people attending a "farewell" luncheon Saturday asked that the club carry on.

Pioneer Club members — many of whom are now in their 80s and 90s — settled into Sun City between 1960 and 1965, the early years of the retirement community. The club formed 17 years ago to share memories and rekindle friendships.

But the planning of club activities recently has become burdensome, say club leaders Margaret Diggs and Evelyn Parry.

During the past year, the Pioneer Club's board decided that Saturday's luncheon was to be the group's last organized meeting.

But sentiment washed over the crowd during the lunch. When club president Walter Witt asked how many people wanted to continue meeting, there was a flurry of hands.

Parry, Diggs and Witt have worried about who would be willing to take over; they said new leaders were needed to help the board. "It's hard sometimes to get people involved," Diggs said.

Her fears may be unfounded. Members of the Sun City Historical Society have volunteered to help.

Historical club member Les Merydith made the offer during the Pioneer Club's luncheon Saturday.

When historical society members heard that the day was to be the final meeting of the club, the news "had come as quite a shock," Merydith said.

Members of the historical group did not want to see the Pioneer Club disappear, he said. To keep the group going, Merydith said the historical society is willing to perform all secretarial duties, including keeping a roster of the Pioneer Club members up to date.

See PIONEERS, Page 3



David McIntyre / Staff photographer  
Inez Chamberlin, 99, attends what was supposed to be the final luncheon of the Sun City Pioneers, which may not disband after all.

## PIONEERS

Because Pioneer members have a rich history of the area, he said his group would like to make written and oral histories, interviewing the Pioneer members to make a record of the early years of Sun City.

"We should have a file drawer full and a stack of tapes" from the Pioneers, Merydith said.

He offered the use of the historical society's facility in Sun City for meetings and programs. Pioneers can bring items they would like to donate to the society,

which will act as a repository, Merydith said.

In providing such services, he said he hopes to keep the Pioneer group alive "right down to the last Pioneer."

In an interview after the luncheon, Witt said he appreciated the historical society's offer. "We'll work along with them and maybe give them more to work with as time goes on," he said.

Witt said the society is a "natural" group that could take over the purpose of the Pioneer

Club. "There has been a mutual interest in preserving the history of Sun City," he said.

"It takes a tremendous amount of work to keep the Pioneer Club going. If new blood wants to come along, we'll work with them," Witt said.

Pioneer Club member Fred Turner, 85, moved to Sun City 29 years ago. He said he enjoys being a part of history and hopes the spirit of the club will continue.

"It's just wonderful to get together with fellow Pioneers. I

really appreciate our time," he said.

Edna Wagner, 79, agreed. She was surprised to see so many people at the luncheon.

"It's amazing that so many of our people are still getting around as well as they do," she said.

Wagner, who moved to Sun City in 1961, also has enjoyed the Pioneer Club. "It's wonderful that the club has lasted this long. I love seeing everyone. We're like one big family."



# Pioneers receive new life Club assured of future

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — A meeting thought to be the last hurrah for the Sun City Pioneers on Saturday ended up being a new beginning for the community's original residents.

Earlier this month, the Pioneers considered disbanding the club because attendance at annual meetings had dropped drastically since the group was established in 1973.

Evelyn Parry and Margaret Diggs, who have borne the bulk of work for the club since it started, said more Pioneers need to show an interest in the club to keep it alive.

But with 120 Pioneers and their guests at the group's 17th annual luncheon, President Walter Witt said he did not want the club to call it quits.

"This was publicized as our last meeting. With the turnout here, I'm not sure," Witt said.

Witt said the club will operate on its own for at least one more year. And an offer made at the meeting by the Sun Cities Area — Historical Society assured the future prosperity of the club down to the last living Pioneer.

Les Merydith, president of the historical society, offered a

number of services to the Pioneers.

"The Sun City Pioneers Club is too valuable a source of historical data to be allowed to disappear from the local scene," Merydith said.

The club was originally open to residents who moved to Sun City in 1960 and 1961. As membership decreased, the club opened to associate members who moved to Sun City from 1962 to 1965.

Merydith said the historical society's office — in Sun City's first model house on 107th Avenue and Oakmont Drive — is open to the Pioneers.

In addition, the society offered to maintain the club's roster and mailings, conduct taped interviews with members who

have stories of the early years and honor at least one Pioneer each month, Merydith said.

"We want to help the club continue as long as there is one Pioneer left to participate," Merydith said.

Many of the Pioneers at Saturday's meeting said they were happy with the historical society's offer.

Sarah Butts, who moved to Sun City in 1960, said she always looks forward to seeing her first friends at the annual luncheon.

"We all love to come to these meetings and reminisce, so their offer to help us out is wonderful," Butts said.

Butts, 89, once volunteered as a Sun City hostess, taking newcomers on bus tours of the

community in the 1960s.

"I still meet people who say they remember me giving tours on one of Del Webb's buses," she said.

Several of the pioneers at the meeting are in their late 90s. One is 100 years old. Many had stories to tell of Sun City's early years.

Bernice Wallace, 95, said she moved to a two-bedroom house in Sun City from a log house in Oklahoma.

She still lives in her original home on Desert Hills Court drives and does her own yard work.

"The early years were so exciting," Wallace said. "I remember the parades we had along 107th (Avenue) from Peoria to Grand (avenues)."



Daily News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherner

**SUN CITY'S FIRSTS** — The Sun City Pioneers helped establish the first clubs, service groups and community programs in Sun City. The Pioneers, who moved to the community in 1960, attended the group's 17th annual luncheon Saturday.

## **SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **A PROPOSAL TO THE SUN CITY PIONEERS CLUB FROM THE SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY:**

The Sun City Area Historical Society recognizes the Sun City Pioneers Club as a unique and irreplaceable source of historical data. The Society seeks to encourage and assist the Pioneers Club in its activities. The Society is therefore offered the following services to the Pioneer Club to continue as long as there is one pioneer left to participate.

- 1 - The Pioneer Club will have available for club use the Society's facilities including meeting room, kitchen, filing and copying.
- 2 - The Society will perform secretarial service for the Pioneers including: maintaining the roster and mailing.
- 3 - The Society will conduct oral history or VCR taped interviews with Pioneers who have items of historical significance to record.
- 4 - The Society will provide a permanent repository for any items of historical significance that Pioneer members wish to leave to the Society.
- 5 - Pioneer members will receive invitations to all meetings and programs.
- 6 - One or more Pioneers will be honored monthly. The public will be invited to meet them and enjoy informal programs and exhibits.

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**NOTE: THE ABOVE PROPOSAL WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND BY THE SUN CITY PIONEERS CLUB AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 27, 1990.**

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OVER



## SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 1, 1990

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

This is to invite you to play a part in local historical activities, either as a member of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society or with financial support.

The Sun Cities Historical Society is organized as a non-profit corporation exclusively for civic and educational purposes. Its task is to preserve the historical data of the Sun Cities Area.

Through the generous support of the J. G. Boswell Foundation, Del Webb Corporation, and other groups and individuals, the Society has purchased Sun City's first model home as its headquarters.

We are also now gathering important and thrilling records of the past in Sun City West. The Society is collecting to organize, preserve and display these historical gems. We believe it important to do this now while the original residents still reside in our cities.

All personnel of the Society are volunteers serving without compensation; however, funds are needed for purchasing and maintenance of office equipment, paying property taxes, insurance, printing, supplies, housekeeping, utilities, etc.

The Society realizes it needs to increase its revenues, expand its membership and to communicate with and retain its present members. Mailings are expensive, but absolutely necessary; thus we include the enclosed membership slip and envelope to the Society for your 1991 tax deductible membership donation.

We ask you to play a part in our local Society activities by your membership and/or by financial support. Thank you.

Al Driscoll  
P.R. Director

cc: Annual Meeting announcement  
Membership application





## SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### ANNUAL MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

1:15 P.M.

SWAIN HALL - FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
12225 103rd AVENUE

### PROGRAM FEATURING

"A Walking Tour of Marinette," by Chief Archivist  
Jane Freeman, and

"A Phoenix Carpenter Creates a New Industry,"  
by Jerry Svenson, Publisher of Sun Life Magazine

Please mark your calendar now to attend and bring a friend. It is great to meet old friends and reminisce about the thrilling beginning of this retirement paradise in Sun City and later in Sun City West.

We trust you will greet this request for your attendance and continued support of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society with the same commitment you have shown in our community in the past.

**The Public Is Invited!**

# 'Saintly' goods available for softball display

By ANN T. DALEY  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Sun City Saints memorabilia are available for display by local businesses and organizations.

Les Merydith, president of the Sun City Historical Society, has 28 trophies of the women's fast-pitch softball team as well as a team photograph.

Merydith said any number of the trophies may be borrowed for display.

"It's a significant part of Sun City history," said Merydith of the collection.

"We would prefer that the entire group be kept together," he said.

The Sun City Rays senior baseball team was the last organization to possess the trophies. The collection was on display last year in the trophy case inside Sun City Stadium, 111th and Grand avenues.

After the Rays disbanded in December, Saints' Booster Club President Alice Messick offered the trophies to the historical group.

"Everything happened so fast. Whoever had the stadium had (the trophies)," said Gerald Stapley, Saints manager.

"(After the fall of the senior league) we had to get (the trophies) out of there so fast," he said.

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## Sun City Saints

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Merydith said the Historical Society relocated the collection inside the meeting room at the Historical Society headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

"The trophies are on three tiers, about 12 feet across and nine feet high," said Merydith. "The display takes up a whole wall. It's very impressive."

Some of the trophies — as tall as 3 feet — date from the early 1960s to 1984. The Saints earned the awards in national and international tournaments.

"We'd like to promote the image," said Merydith of the Society. "The Milwaukee Brewers used to train at Sun City Stadium in the spring and then the Saints would take us through the summer."

The Saints, homeless at this time because of a lack of financial support for Sun City Stadium, will have a meeting March 16 to decide what measures the team will take in regard to the 1991 season.

"We'd like to be back in Sun City, but we'll see what the girls decide," said the manager.

For information, phone the Sun City Historical Society at 974-2568.

# Marching out

## Sounds of Saints softball team are only memories at stadium

By Julia Jones  
Staff writer

**T**he grass is sprouting in the dirt along the base line in Sun City Stadium at 111th and Grand avenues.

No one runs the bases anymore.

Jack Falerni, groundskeeper, goes occasionally to check on the property and equipment, but he doesn't turn on the sprinklers to water the field.

No one is there to care if it's green.

A couple of weeks ago, he helped Alice

Messick move 27 trophies, won by the 1979 world champion Sun City Saints, a womens' fast-pitch softball team, from showcases in the deserted stadium to the Sun City Historical Society headquarters on Oakmont Drive.

The home team's trophies are big, glittering masterpieces of brightly colored metal and polished wood, tributes to an excess of design with fluted columns, spheres and plaques in abundance. Most have a tiny batter poised, forever ready to knock one out of the park.

They mark the Saints' glory days,

between 1966 and 1984.

But after 18 seasons in the sun, the Saints were called out on a squeeze play: they lost to the money men.

"We have the trophies on display now, but there are too many for us to keep out all the time," said Les Merydith, Historical Society president. "They take up our whole meeting room."

Messick was president of the Saints booster club earlier this year when the team took another swing at a comeback, and missed.

But the game is over, Messick said; this

time, it's for good.

Messick, 81, and Falerni, 77, were more than fans.

Since Messick came back home to the Valley with her husband in 1971, she had been a part of the Saints, body and soul. The Saints were playing in a dirt field along Grand Avenue then, where a family restaurant now stands. They were making their own posters announcing their schedule, persuading area merchants to display them.

The team needed help with that, so See **TROPHY**, Page 6

## TROPHY

From Page 1

that's what the Messicks did, she said. They had always been active volunteers, working for 40 years with the March of Dimes, for instance, and she had chaired Wyoming's 75th anniversary celebration of statehood.

And from then on, they helped the Saints wherever and whenever help was needed.

"We were just there to help expedite anything the girls did," she said, "any fund-raising, selling ads for the program or scorecard or whatever. It was really a pleasure for us. We were with them before there was a booster club.

"We probably averaged 1,000 or 1,200 fans in the stands in those days," Messick said. "These other teams would come in with their boosters, maybe 40 people, and I think it kind of scared them to see all these people in that pretty stadium. And then this year, we had 900 people there, and I thought that was pretty good, since a lot of our old-timers had passed away."

Falerni has his own set of memories.

"I took care of the place when the (Milwaukee) Brewers were there for spring training, too," Falerni said. The San Francisco Giants played there briefly, as did a legion of other teams, including Arizona State University and Grand Canyon University, and some Pop Warner boys.

The ballpark, built on 12.5 acres by the Del Webb company, opened July 4, 1971. Building permits still posted show the cost as \$300,000. It was the third field Webb had built in its Sun City development, and by far the most elaborate.

Falerni, who started out as a hooper in the Catskills and New York City's burlesque houses, learned pick-and-shovel work in his dad's construction business.

"I'm just the guy out there (at the Sun City Stadium) with the mower now," he said.

And the Saints are just part of Sun City history, Messick said.

Messick's eyes moved over the assembled trophies again to one she bought, the first big trophy commemorating the Del Webb Memorial Day Tournament, back in 1978, as a memorial to her husband, who died that year.

Another one, she pointed out, was when the girls won the state championship, and one marked a trip to Australia.

A Japanese team came over here to play, she said. Then the Saints went to the Netherlands and Canada, down to Rhodesia. And everywhere they went, they held classes, to spread the word about their sport.

The team, most recently coached by Gerald Stapley of Mesa, never finished below fourth in the Amateur Softball Association National Tournament for eight straight years.

But in the mid-'80s, the property changed hands twice, and stadium rent soared to \$6,000. Now, the stadium is for sale, through the federal government's real estate office, Merydith said. The asking price for the property, in the Agua Fria River floodplain, is \$1.8 million.

The Saints tried a comeback last year, Messick said, at about the same time the Sun City Rays, a senior league ball club, got rolling, but it seemed both clubs struck out.

Messick is not optimistic about another revival. It isn't just the rent, she said. There also is a matter of upkeep.

"People don't realize it costs about \$25,000 a year to maintain that field," Falerni said. Watering alone would cost about \$1,000 a month.

Some of the trophies will be on display at the Historical Society, Merydith said. They would like to loan others to Sun City agencies and firms with display space, so people won't forget.





## Historical Society officers

The Sun City Historical Society has elected new officers. From left, back, Les Merydith, president; Al Thompson, treasurer. From left, front, Emil Fischer, vice president; Rita Wright, secretary.

FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 5, 1991--SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT--PAGE 9

# SUN CITIES AREA



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1991 \*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### TERMS EXPIRE DECEMBER 31

1991	Neil Bultman	10060 B Royal Oak Dr.	977	0620
	Alvin M. Driscoll	13231 Mesa Verde Dr., 375	584	2210
	Joseph Keenan	11102 Palmeras Dr.	972	0123
	Jay Woods	14021 Palm Ridge Dr.	977	2683
	Rita Wright	11029 Bluefield Ct.	972	9310
	Al Thompson	10322 Kelso Dr.	974	5039
1992	Althea Curfman	17623 Whispering Oaks, 375	975	1123
	Emil Fischer	15201 Rosewood Dr.	977	2070
	James W. Hawks	16406 111th Ave.	933	2979
	Les Merydith	13602 Kaanapali Pt.	977	1723
	Glenn Sanberg	11002 Cameo Dr.	977	9961
1993	Richard Gray	12422 Marble Dr., 375	975	1955
	Donald Manlove	10323 Aztec Dr.	933	5478
	Julia Manspeaker	13806 97th Ave.	977	5367
	Martha Moyer	13950 Meeker Blvd.	546	5110
	Evelyn Parry	10729 Clair Dr.	933	2698
	Maurice Street	17815 Conquistador Dr., 375	584	0323

\* As of March 1, 1991

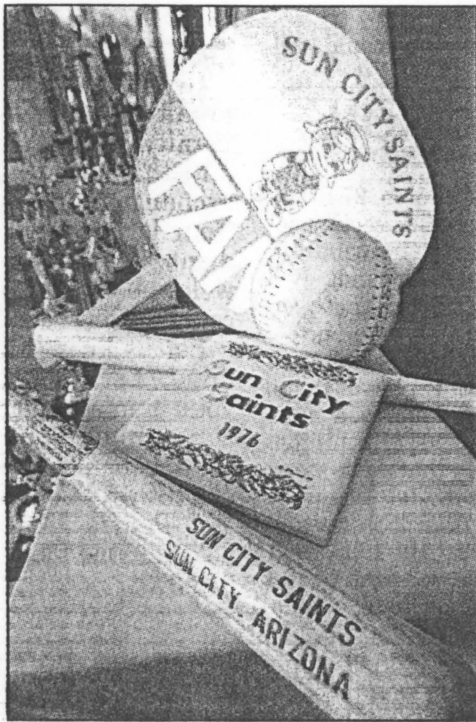
## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Les Merydith
Vice PRESIDENT	Emil Fischer
SECRETARY	Rita Wright
TREASURER	Al Thompson

## BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

2nd Thursday of the month	10:00 a.m.	10801 Oakmont Dr.
January 10	April 11 and spring meeting	Oct. 10
February 14	May 9	Nov. 14 and fall (annual) meeting
March 14	September 12	Dec. 12

Wednesday, March 13, 1991



Community  
Memorabilia and memories of the Sun City Saints are all that remain for Les Merydith (left), Historical Society president; Alice Messick, booster; and Jack Falerni, stadium groundskeeper.



James Garcia / Staff photographer





## SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 2, 1991

To: Members and Prospective Members of the  
Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

The Spring Meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society (SCAHS) will be held in the Community Services building in Sun City West, 14465 R. H. Johnson Blvd., from 1:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 11, 1991. Coffee and cookies will be served from 1:30 to 2:00 P.M. Prior to the Spring Meeting of the membership there will be a meeting of the SCAHS trustees in the Sun City West Community Services building from 12:30 P.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Members of the Pioneers of Sun City West will be special guests of SCAHS at this Spring Meeting. We urge all members of the Pioneers of the Sun Cities as well as members of SCAHS and prospective members to bring any historical data, pictures and articles that will contribute to the important and thrilling record of the past of the Sun Cities.

We welcome and are encouraging members of the Pioneers to become members of SCAHS and encourage them as well as members of SCAHS to bring new members who are interested in preserving the history of the Sun Cities area.

We are enclosing a SCAHS brochure containing an application for membership. Members please pass this on to a friend.

Join us in collecting and preserving the history of the Sun Cities.

Al Driscoll  
Public Relations Chairman

## Sun Cities Historical Society slates spring get-together

The spring meeting of the Sun Cities Historical Society will be held April 11 in the Sun City West Community Services Building,

14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

There will be refreshments at 1 p.m. with the meeting to begin at 1:30 p.m.

Speaker will be John Meeker, past president of the Del Webb Corp., 1978, when Sun City West started, serving through 1983.

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APRIL 10-16, 1991 —SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT-- PAGE 3

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NEWS SUN 4/8/91

### SCW founding topic of history group meeting

SUN CITY WEST — John Meeker, a past president of the Del E. Webb Development Co., will discuss the founding of Sun City West at a meeting of the Sun Cities Historical Society April 11.

The meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. in the Sun City West Foundation building, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served from 1 to 1:30 p.m.

Also speaking at the meeting will be Don Tuffs, a former manager of the Sundome in Sun City West.

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National Historic Preservation Week  
May 12-18, 1991

All week long 1 to 3 PM

- - Open house - Special exhibits

- - Punch and cookies

Rita Wright - Rae Mason - Reba Merydith

- - In attendance each day - Regular hostess - at least one board member -  
Pioneers invited

Wednesday May 15 - 1 to 3 PM

- - Press invited

Al Driscoll

- - Pioneer rally - Invitations

Evelyn Parry

- - Program - Pioneer interviews

-Joe Keenan - Talk on "Words in History"

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**HISTORICAL SOCIETY** — The officers of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society are, from left, Les Merydith, president; Emil Fischer, vice-president; Rita Wright, secretary and Al Thompson, treasurer. The group meets at 10 a.m. the second Thursday of each month at 10801 Oakmont Drive. The Headquarters is open 1 to 3 p.m. Mondays through Sundays.

### **Society hosts open house**

**SUN CITY WEST** — Sun Cities Area Historical Society is hosting an open house May 12-18 in honor of National Historic Preservation week.

The open house will be from 1 to 3 p.m. daily at the society headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive. The headquarters is one of the original model homes built in Sun City in 1960.

The historical society is a non-profit corporation and its volunteer members collect and preserve historical data from the Sun Cities area.

"As a vital guardian of the important and thrilling record of the past, the society collects, organizes, preserves and displays these historical

gems in special exhibits," said Al Driscoll, publicity chairman of the society.

Driscoll said this year is the 25th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the 75th anniversary of the National Park Service. *NEWS-SUN MAY 8, 1991*

## History of Sun City area part of display

An open house at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, will continue through Saturday as an observance of National Historic Preservation Week. The group's headquarters is arranged in one of the original model homes built in Sun City.

S.C. INDEPENDENT

• Volume 31, Number 20 •

MAY 15-21 1991

### In Brief

#### Historical Society slates open house

The Sun Cities and other communities throughout Arizona are observing National Historic Preservation Week, through May 18.

Locally, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold open house 1-3 p.m. daily at its headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Ave., Sun City.

Oakmont is the first street south of Grand and 107th Avenue. The headquarters is the original model home built in Sun City in 1960.

As a guardian of important records of the past, the society collects and organizes displays and exhibits for special occasions and throughout National Preservation Week.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the 75th anniversary of the National Park Service.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation Week designated the week-long observance to promote public awareness of the nation's cultural resources.

# Webb gives society 1st home sales shed

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — A brown wooden shed used as Del Webb Corp.'s first home sales office will be moved next to Sun City's original model home.

The 10- by 4-foot shed is in Del Webb's storage yard and will be attached to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society office within a month, said Les Merydith, president of the group. Webb donated the shed to the society.

The small shed is said to have also been used as an office for hostesses who gave tours of Sun City and by the Sun City Saints slow-pitch women's softball team.

Merydith made the announcement Wednesday to a group of Sun City pioneers and other residents who attended the society's open house in honor of National Historic Preservation Week.

The society headquarters, at

10801 W. Oakmont Drive, is the original model home built in Sun City in 1960.

The headquarters officially opened to the public on Sun City's 30th anniversary in January 1990.

Dozens of people visited the headquarters this week and got a look at photos, newspaper clippings and memorabilia of Sun City's early days.

Joe Keenan, a historical society trustee, gave a talk on the origin of words and sayings.

"Pioneers is a word that means something to all of us. It's the people who took a chance and changed history just like people in Sun City," Keenan said. "Who would think you could just go out in the desert and create an oasis like this?"

A number of pioneers — people who moved to Sun City in the early 1960s — reminisced about their move to the retirement community.

Bernice Walker, 96, moved here November 1960 and still lives in her original home on Desert Hills Court.

Dorothy Bell, 78, moved here in August 1961, and worked for the Webb sales department for 21 years. "You never met a stranger. We all knew each other in the early days," Bell said.

Florence Sears, a volunteer for the historical society, moved here in April 1960. "We came out every other day and watched them build our house," Sears said.

Sarah Butts, 89, moved to Sun City in April 1960 and now lives in Sun Valley Lodge, the community's first care center.

Alex Smith, 87, bought a home here in February 1961. "If you had \$350 you could buy a house in Sun City," he said.

The historical society headquarters is a Kentworth model with two bedrooms and one bath that sold for \$8,750 in 1960.





Daily News-Sun photo by Jacque Pappas

**HERE FROM THE START** — Sun City Pioneers Bernice Walker, from left, Dorothy Bell, Florence Sears and Sarah Butts look at Emil Fisher's ink drawings of the churches in Sun City. The drawings and other Sun City memorabilia were on display this week as part of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's open house. The society will be attaching an addition to its office at 10801 Oakmont Drive. The addition is a shed which housed Sun City's first home sales office.

## Cruise plans undecided

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Sun Cities Area Historical Society chief archivist Jane Freeman of Sun City hasn't decided what she'll do with a cruise she won earlier this week.

The decision will be left up to Freeman, said Historical Society President Les Merydith after Freeman was selected as Volunteer of the Month in a May 21 drawing at the Sun City Community Service Building.

The Volunteer of the Month program is sponsored by Holland America Lines. Each month a local non-profit, or not-for-profit organization submits a nomination for volunteer of the month. A drawing is held each month and the winner is eligible for a luxury cruise ship holiday for two.

Eligible non-profit Sun Cities volunteer organizations who win the trip have the option of allowing the individual nominee to take the trip or use it in some other manner, such as a fund-raiser, said Ray Brown, president of the Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities Area, which coordinates the project for Holland America.

All volunteers nominated by their organizations will receive a non-cash recognition award and will be eligible for the final random drawing for Volunteer of the Year to be conducted in January 1992.

Contest rules stipulate no organization may win more than one monthly drawing, but any winning monthly volunteer will be eligible for the final Volunteer of the Year drawing.

## Historical Society volunteer earns honor

Sun Cities Area Historical Society Volunteer Jane Freeman, a Sun City resident, was awarded the first Volunteer of the Month honor under a new program created by The Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities, Inc. and Holland American Cruise Lines. The drawing — the first of eight such monthly drawings — was held at May 21 at the Volunteer Bureau's Sun City office.

The Historical Society was one of 28 area volunteer organizations which submitted entries to the first drawing. The contest winner will receive a plaque and their submitting volunteer organization will receive tickets for a cruise line vacation for two.

Entries for June's Volunteer of the Month contest must be turned into the bureau by June 15 for the drawing held one week later.

Volunteer organizations may continue to submit entries throughout the drawings. All entries will be combined at the end of the year for a final Volunteer of the Year award.

SUN CITIES • MAY 29-JUNE 4, 1991 • 25 cents

INDEPENDENT

## Historical Society volunteer to receive cruise

**SUN CITIES** — The Sun Cities Area Historical Society was selected as the first recipient of a Caribbean cruise as part of a new volunteer recognition program.

The historical society's nomination of volunteer Jane Freeman was selected in a May 21 random drawing from the 28 agencies that participated.

The Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities area is coordinating the contest. Holland America Line in May donated 18, seven-day Caribbean cruises to be awarded to volunteers nominated for outstanding service or to be used to raise money for a non-profit organ-

ization. Each cruise is valued at about \$1,500.

One volunteer will be selected each month through December, and another winner will be selected as the volunteer of the year in January.

Freeman, who was co-founder of the Sun Cities Area Historical

Society in 1985, volunteers about 40 hours a week for the society. She has been president or vice president throughout the first five years.

Prior to the acquisition of the society's museum and headquarters building in 1989, she collected historical items and stored them in her home.

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• MAY 29-JUNE 4, 1991 • 25 cents

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### Del Webb gives \$15,000 to local charitable groups

**SUN CITY WEST** — Del Webb Corp. recently donated \$15,000 to Sun Cities-area charitable organizations as part of its annual community-support effort.

Organizations receiving funds included the Sun Cities Area Community Council, Sun Cities Historical Society, Sun Cities Art Museum, Sheriff's Poses of Sun City and Sun City West, Sun City West Handicapables, Sun City West and Sun City Prides, Sun City West Meals on Wheels, Sun City West Lending Hands, Sun City West Hospice, Westside Food Bank, Sun Cities Fine Arts Society, Sun Cities Area Transit System, Sun City and Sun City West Community Funds and Sun Cities Area Interfaith Services.

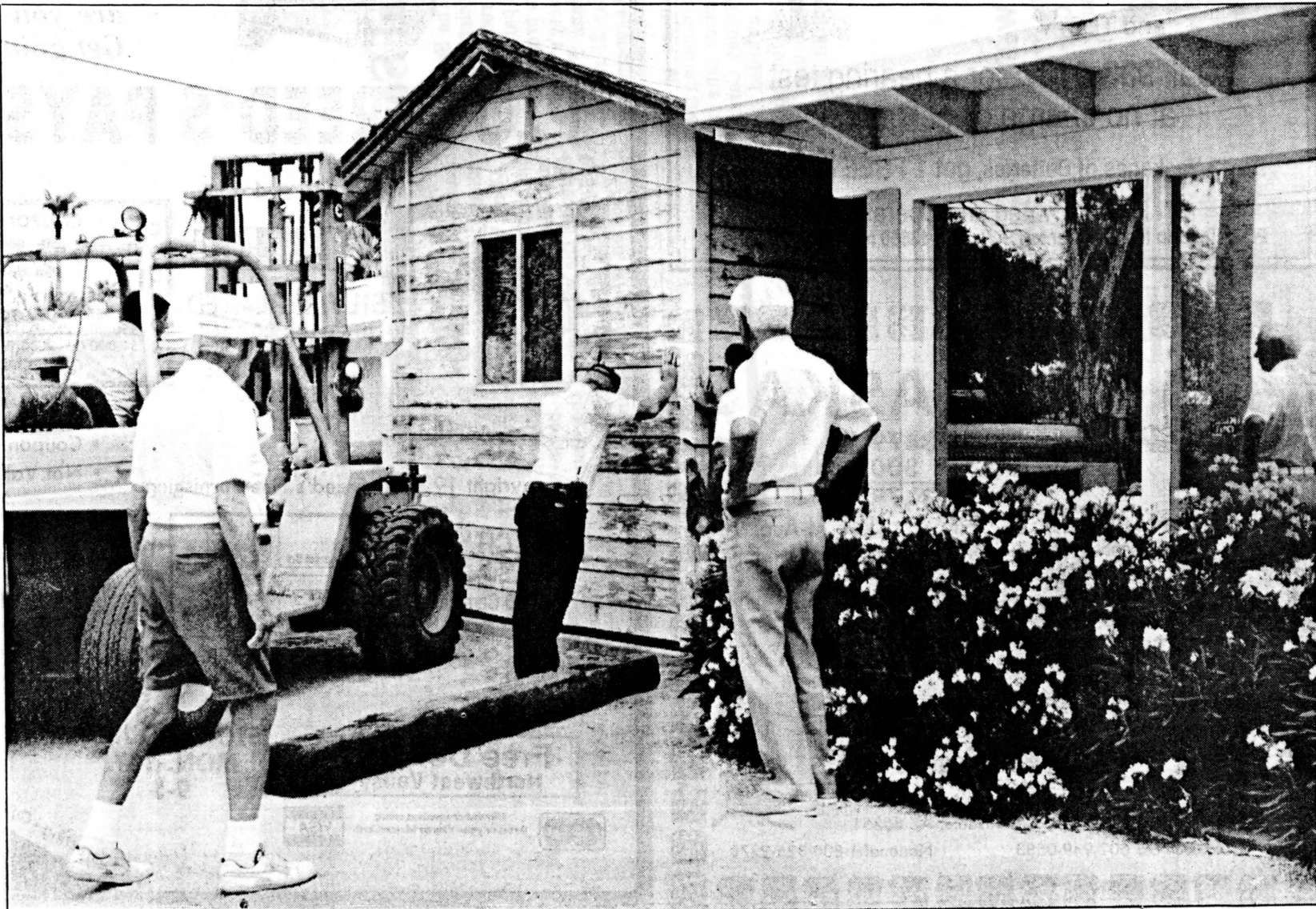




COMMUNITY, A3 *DAILY NEWS SUN*

## ASU student delves into the history behind the first Sun Citians

6/12/91



**AN ORIGINAL** — A forklift operator draws attention as he sets the original Del Webb sales office onto a concrete slab next to one of Sun City's first model homes which now houses the Sun City Historical Society. The building was moved to Coggins Avenue from Sun City West Tuesday and will be restored to its original state.

# Student creates oral history

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — A student working on her master's degree wants to capture the excitement and uncertainty Sun City's first residents felt in the early 1960s.

During the next year, Melanie Sturgeon will record interviews with the community's pioneers as a part of her thesis for a master's degree in public history at Arizona State University.

"I'm very interested in interviewing as many pioneers as possible. Historians too often look at what other historians wrote or what government officials did," Sturgeon said. "I think you get more of a sense of what things were like by talking to the people."

Sturgeon will make the recordings at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's headquarters, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.

The headquarters is the original model home built in Sun City in 1960. It officially opened to the public during Sun City's 30th anniversary in January 1990.

Sturgeon said she had been doing research on retirement and the evolution of retirement communities.

"A number of things were tried in Florida in the 1920s, but nothing really got successful until Sun City," she said. "I want to know what about living in a retirement community appealed to them and how they heard about Sun City. You can't get a feel for that unless you talk to someone."

Sturgeon said she will make two tapes of each interview. One will remain at the historical society headquarters and the other will be stored at ASU.

Sturgeon, 43, lives in Mesa and has five children, ages 11 to 17.

She has applied for a \$3,000



Daily News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**FOR POSTERITY** — Melanie Sturgeon peruses people profiles at the Sun City Historical Society. She is working with the society on an oral history of the community.

state grant to help her cover the costs of her project.

Jane Freeman, chief archivist for the historical society, said she met with Sturgeon last week and helped her make a list of people she can contact for the oral history project.

"Having people's voices and

expressions makes the moments in history more vibrant and personal to hear about," Freeman said.

She said the oral history will mark the first time stories from pioneers — Sun City's first residents — are put on

tape.

"An oral history is vitally important to any historical society and community. In years to come it will even be more important," Freeman said. "Just imagine how exciting it would be to have George Washington's voice on tape."





**AN ORIGINAL** — A forklift operator draws attention as he sets the original Del Webb sales office onto a concrete slab next to one of Sun City's first model homes. The model now houses the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. The sales office was moved to the site on Coggins Avenue from Sun City West and is undergoing renovation.





SUN CITIES AREA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, November 14th

PALMBROOK COUNTRY CLUB  
9350 W. Greenway Road  
Sun City

### PROGRAM

THE VILLAGE OF MARINETTE

SPEAKER; K. TRIMBLE

- \* Executive Assistant on Pheonix history project
- \* Central Arizona Museum of History project
- \* Oral history interviewer and instructor

LUNCHEON; \$10.00

Reservations Required

Phone: 974-2568 or 977-5367, or leave message on recorder

PAY AT DOOR

COME AND RENEW ACQUAINTANCES AND REMINISCE ON THE INTERESTING  
PAST OF THIS AREA. PLEASE ACT TODAY. THANKS.

*12 Noon*

### Historical society meeting features local authority

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold its annual meeting at noon Thursday in Palmbrook Country Club, 9350 W. Greenway Road.

Featured speaker is Phoenix area historian K.R. Trimble. He was executive assistant director of the Phoenix History Project, which published the 240-page "Phoenix, Valley of the Sun" in 1982.

Required reservations of \$10 for lunch may be made by calling 975-2568 or 977-1723.

### Historical Society hosts annual gathering

Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold its annual meeting at noon Nov. 14 at the Palmbrook Country Club, 9390 W. Greenway Road, Sun City.

The guest speaker will be K. Trimble, Phoenix historian and former executive assistant director of the Phoenix History Project.

Cost is \$10. Call 975-2568 or 977-1723.

- SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT -- NOVEMBER 13-19, 1991

ly News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1991



SC Historical Society closes for holidays



Katie Young and Neil Bultman reminisce about the early days of living in Sun City and look at maps at the Sun City Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Monday.

Bultman is a trustee and Young is one of many hostesses who welcome visitors to the society headquarters, which has reopened for the season.

Frances Guarino/Daily News-Sun



# Preserving history

## Sun City West memorabilia sought for historical records

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITIES — Sun City West is only 13 years old but memorabilia is already being collected to preserve the community's history.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society plans to open a satellite office in Sun City West by mid-October for residents to drop off photos, maps, newspaper articles and other records of Sun City West. The office is in the Sun City West Community Services Building, R.H. Johnson and Stardust boulevards.

"We want to start collecting memorabilia for Sun City West now, before things get discolored and deteriorated," said Al Driscoll, who has been on the historical society's board for four years.

An appeal has been made to pioneers of Sun City West to become members of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. The historical society's board was expanded this year to include five members from Sun City West, Driscoll said.

"We will have displays from time to time, but primarily it will be a collection site for pictures, old activity calendars, newspaper clippings, and other memorabilia of Sun City West," Driscoll said.

Volunteers are being sought for the new Sun City West office as well as the museum in Sun City that is reopening Sunday after the summer hiatus.



Tom Tingle / Staff photographer  
**Les Merydith and Jane Freeman, officers of the Sun City Area Historical Society, look over old newspapers at the society's building, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.**

The historical society will resume its operating hours of 1 to 3 p.m. seven days a week. The museum is in Sun City's first model home, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.

Volunteers are needed to act as hosts for museum visitors.

Help also is needed in sorting and cataloging slides and other historical materials. Clerical as-

sistance also is being sought.

People interested in volunteering can call Jane Freeman, the museum's chief archivist at 974-2568. Freeman is the co-author of "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona," which chronicles the history of Sun City through 1985.

Visitors to the Sun City museum may view one of the promotional

films from 1960, when the sale of homes in Sun City first began.

Thirty-one trophies for the Sun Cities Saints ball team are on display as well as T-shirts and other Saints memorabilia.

Soon to be available is a file with copies of newspaper and magazine articles about the Sun Cities. Original articles are being copied on acid-free paper and filed by subject alphabetically.

Among the topics are the grape festival, churches, ambassadors, recreation centers, school tax and the posse. In the personalities file, there are copies of stories about individuals.

Scrapbooks from Sun Cities clubs also are available. Also, phone books from every year since Sun City was started in 1960 are stocked in the museum.

The house that is being used as a museum was built in 1959 by Del E. Webb Development Corp. and originally sold for \$8,500. The historical society bought it 40 years later for \$44,000 and spent \$16,000 renovating it, using donations from the James G. Boswell Foundation, Webb Foundation and Del Webb Corp.

On Jan. 1, 1960, when Sun City's model home opened, 237 homes were sold the first day. Cars were lined up for miles to gain entrance to the new retirement community. More than 100,000 people visited during the first three days, Freeman said.

# Westers see need to preserve local history

By JACQUE PAPPAS, a former  
Daily News-Sun staff writer

Thirty years after the first home was sold in Sun City, a historical society headquarters opened to showcase memorabilia from the community's early years.

Now, 13 years after the birth of Sun City West, the Sun City Area Historical Society is looking to expand its horizons.

"The time is now for us to be collecting paraphernalia, photos and other things of historical interest in Sun City West. We don't want to lose them to people passing away or moving back to their home town," said Al Driscoll, a member of the society's board of trustees.

In an effort to bring the society's goal of collection and preservation closer to Sun City West, volunteers have opened a temporary office in the Community Services Building, 14475 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Driscoll said he and other Sun City West residents have been organizing the office to serve as "a guardian of the records and events of the past."

And with 31,000 residents estimated to live in Sun City West by 2000, a historical society seems to be a must for the community.

"Most every city has a historical society today. The headquarters in Sun City is a success and we hope to be successful here," Driscoll said.

Driscoll said the temporary office does not have a telephone number yet because the society may soon move into a larger room in the building.

He said Sun City West resident Ann Raymond,

a former Del Webb Corp. executive, has volunteered to coordinate the volunteers at the office.

In addition to collecting memorabilia, Driscoll said the society wants to get more Sun City West residents to join the organization.

The cost of membership ranges from \$10 to \$250 for a life membership.

Driscoll said the group plans to send membership forms out to local residents in January. For more information on membership or being a volunteer call 584-2210.

The historical society has 15 residents on its board of trustees, five of whom are from Sun City West.

Les Merydith, society president, said he is pleased with the progress the Sun City West residents are making.

"They have moved rapidly toward getting organized to do the job that lies ahead in Sun City West. They are already where Sun City was after 25 years," Merydith said. "The long-term objective is to have a full-scale historical society in Sun City West. We hope to be able to locate Sun City West's historical records in Sun City West."

Much of Sun City West's memorabilia collected by the society is being stored in the Sun City headquarters, at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.

The headquarters, which features photographs, directories and other memorabilia from the community's early years, officially opened to the public on Sun City's 30th anniversary in January 1990.



Stephen Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Al Driscoll, left, shows Sandy Goldstein and Ann Raymond a package of information about Sun City West donated by a resident. The information will be used by the Sun City Area Historical Society to some day display in Sun City West.