Historical Society works to preserve Sun City's past

Very first model home serves as headquarters, museum of memorabilia

By ANNE RYMAN

Sun Cities Independent

A menu features filet mignon for \$2.45, a home costs \$8,000 and cotton fields take the place of today's houses and condominiums.

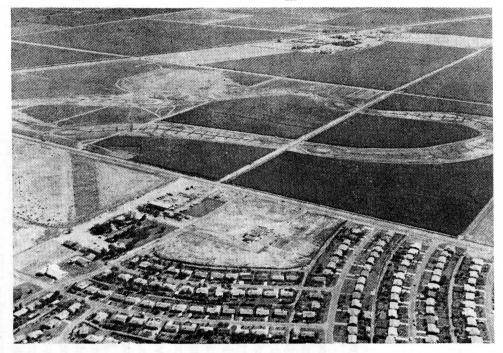
Those days may be gone, but the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society puts the early beginnings of the Sun Cities at people's fingertips.

The society museum, located at 10801 Oakmont Ave., features information about the first model homes, early photographs of the Sun Cities, newspaper clippings, street maps and memorabilia.

Collectibles include keyrings and buttons as well as early sourvenirs such as ashtrays commemorating the fifth anniversary of Sun City.

In 1989, the society purchased the first model home built in Sun City which members converted into a historical museum and headquarters.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is open Monday through Friday from 1 to 3 p.m.



Photograph courtesy Sun Cities Historical Society

Prior to 1960, Sun City was nothing but one large cotton field. The town of Youngtown, foreground, was established in 1955. The above aerial photograph was taken just as the Del Webb Co. was clearing the land in preparation of the retirement community to come.

Before the home purchase, society members used a small office in Plaza del Rio as well as their homes for storing memorabilia. Jane Freeman, archivist of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, says she kept items in her garage, utility room, inside closets and even under beds.

Mrs. Freeman co-founded the organization with Glenn Sanberg. Members met while working on "Jubilee," a book

published in 1985 about the history of Sun City. The society has grown to include 250 members, she says.

One archive is not necessarily more important than another.

"It's all important," she says.

The society is interested in anything that will depict the way of living in the Sun City or Sun City West.

"What we're trying to do is collect any pertinent data valuable to the future," says Emil Fischer, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. He says while the information may not seem important today, it will have great importance in 50 years.

Mrs. Freeman says some people bring in items that are historically significant but have nothing to do with the Sun Cities such as a *Life* magazine's John F. Kennedy assassination cover.

"Historically, it's good, but we can't begin to take everything," she says, because the society's focus is preserving information about the local area.

Volunteers currently are working on a file which has clippings of information about services such as banks, bowling, churches, etc.

Members copy the information on acidfree paper and place it in acid-free folders for preservation. Volunteers also are

See SOCIETY, Page 3

OVER

working to complete a pamphlet file. "These pamphlets can't be copied because you lose the essence," Mrs. Freeman says of pamphlets put out by organizations such as the Prides or the Sun City Symphony. Members work to identify and date photographs given to the society by the Del Webb Corp.

Mrs. Freeman says she doesn't know exactly how many photos have to be identified, but estimates it to be several thousand.

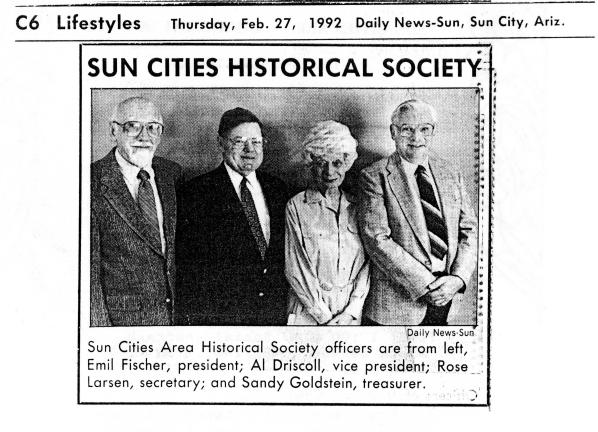
Members just completed gathering and mounting a collection of early Sun City postcards and Christmas cards. Beginning in 1960, the Del Webb Corp. sent Christmas cards to all its residents.

Most of the cards are fold-out or threedimensional. In one card, a white picket fence opens to reveal a series of photographs of Sun City.

"It (the mailing of holiday cards) was discontinued in 1970 because there were getting to be too many people," Mrs. Freeman says.

Mr. Fischer says the society is interested in preserving the archives of both Sun City and Sun City West.

"We like to emphasize that because some people think of us (the society) as only Sun¹¹¹ City. We're very much interested in Sun City West," he says.



SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YOU ARE INVITED to our Spring Membership Meeting Meet with friends and fellow members and hear an interesting program,

QATE: Monday, April 13, 1992

PLACE: Sun City West Community Center, 14465 R. H. Johnson Blvd.

TIME: 1 :00 p.m. Social -refreshments served. MEETING; 1:30 -3:30 p.m.

SPEAKER: NARGARET FINNERTY, Author of "Del Webb --- A Man, A Company"

and

MARTHA MOYER, Manager of Public and Community Relations.will talk on "Del Webb – Today and Tomorrow"

Many Sun City Pioneers and Sun City West Pioneers will be present.

Sun Cities Historical Society 10801 Oakmont Dr. Sun City, Az. 85351



SCW Trustees Seek Historical Items

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold its spring meeting Monday, April 13, at the Sun City West Community Service Center at 1 p.m. for social hour and 1:30 p.m. meeting.

Speakers are Margaret Finnerty, author of "Del Webb - A Man. A Company," and Martha Moyer, Webb public and community relations manager, on "Del Webb, Today and Tomorrow".

The SC's Historical Society now has SCW Trustees on its Board. Althea Curfman. Martha Moyer, Sandy Goldstein, Maurice Street and Al Driscoll.

TRUSTEES

Trustees negotiated for space in the Sun City West Community Services Building for collecting and preserving the historical data of our community.

Sun City West will be celebrating their 14th anniversary in October and will start collecting memorabilia now. Most of the families who would have in their possession the many thrilling records of Sun City West's past would be members of the "Pioneers" Club.

As the Society grows. its Board of Trustees will be able to expand its service so that the color and excitement of days gone by may be enjoyed The Sun City West by present and future

generations.

volunteers in the office in the Community Service Center. Will you please join in preserving the history of Sun City West? We need family pictures, construction pictures of your home, your neighborhood, your golf course, or other Sun City West construction, the Trustees said.

Please accept our 1/2price membership offer of only \$5 for singles, or \$7.50 for families, for the year 1992 for first time members. We will be looking to receive your membership this month. One need not be a member to devote historical Continued on Page 3

memorabilia. Contact any You are needed as of the Trustees for information.

> The office at 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd. will be open on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is an opportunity to see photographs and news clippings taken during the "getting" started" period of Sun City West. You may see yourself in some of these photos.

> The office is a central point for collecting memorabilia, photographs, old restaurant menus, copies of old activity calendars, etc...items that constitute the history of -Sun City West. Now is the time to TRUSTEES

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THE WESTER APRIL 9-15, 1992

these ecstasy of your move to Sun City West that you This will become a record of the agony and the ecstasy of your move to and your neighbors made Perhaps you can supply the names of the early occupants in Sun City West, early ouilt and who was the eader? Were you involved liscolored and discarded your von who has contributed to early development of Fire help in preparing an "Honor Roll" of each of rom the seventies to date your church dome. founders and early presidents of organizations performances of the Sun ending District, LPGA golf tourna ments. Luminaria program they **Continued from Page 1** would like Monte Carlo? assembling ommunity Fund. West. before Posse. When was City begin We tems ands. Bingo. built Sun with

History group starts

SCW memorabilia search

Daily News-Sun staff SUN CITY WEST. - Local residents, an't want to wait 27 years before they start collecting historical memorabilia

is Sun City West. "We will be celebrating its 14th aninversary in October and we believe we inust start collecting memorabilia now," said Al Driscoll, a member of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society board of trustees. An organized effort to collect Sun City memorabilia began in 1987, 27 years after the community was developed.

"Now is the time to begin assem-

Daily News-Sun staff SUN CITY, WEST. - Local residents, colored and discarded," Driscoll said.

In an effort to involve more Sun City West residents in preserving the history of the community, the society is inviting the public to a spring membership meeting Monday.

Refreshments will be served at 1 p.m. and the meeting and program will begin at 1:30 in the Sun City West Community Center, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Margaret Finnerty, author of "Del Webb - A Man, A Company," will be the featured speaker, along with Mar-

tha Moyer, Del Webb manager of public and community relations.

Those who attend the meeting and other Sun City West residents are also being given a chance to support the collection of historical data by becoming a member of the society.

A half-price 1992 membership of \$5 per person and \$7.50 for couples for 1992 is being offered.

The five Sun City West residents on the society's board of trustees have negotiated for space in the community services building for collecting and preserving the historical data of the

community method soll s'ythirt of The society welcomes information M. Catulion The office is open from 9 a.m. to 1 such as the names of early occupants; p.m. Wednesday and will serve as a early performances in the Sundome, central point for collecting, memofounders and early presidents of gr., rabilia, photographs, old restaurant ganizations and church construction menus, copies of old activity calendars dates. Julia ron 1911 10.1 and other items of Sun City West's In addition, the society needs family. early years.

and the second second second

The historical society's main office is at 10801 Oakmont Drive in the first model home built in Sun City.

Residents in Sun City have donated many of the items in the office and now residents in Sun City West are being asked to help. In addition, the society needs family pictures, housing construction pictures, your neighborhood, golf courses or other Sun City West construction.

"As the society grows, its board of trustees will be able to expand its service so that the color and excitement of days gone by may be enjoyed by present and future generations." B2 Sports Wednesday, April 22, 1992 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

SIDELINES

Former Sun City Saints players sought for reunion

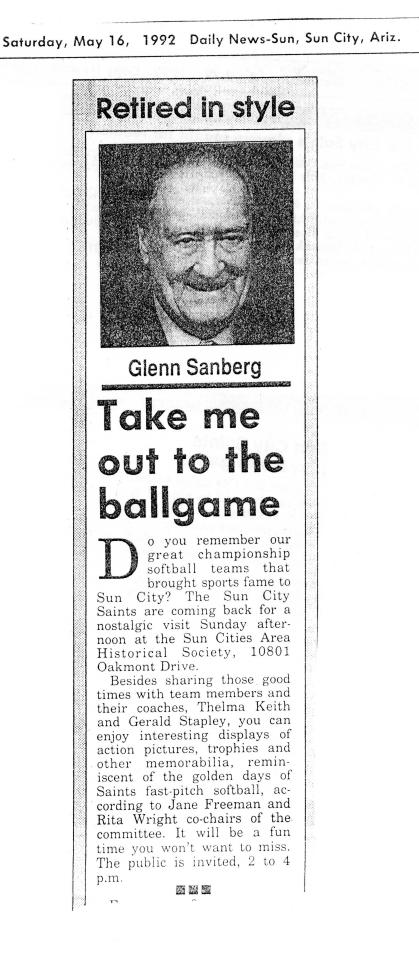
SUN CITY — The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has planned a reunion on Sunday, May 17, to honor former Sun City Saints players.

The Society will have 32 team trophies and team memorabilia on display during the event, which will be conducted from 2 to 4 p.m.

Players should phone Thelma Keith at 246-8890, Gerald Stapley at 964-8579 or Alice Messick at 977-5745.

For information, phone Jane Freeman at 974-2568 or 974-5377.







SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

April 21, 1992

Dear Sun City SAINTS Booster,

Re-live the good old days on Sunday, May 17, 1992 when we plan to recognize the Sun City Saints. Further details are available on the back of this letter.

We have talked with former coaches Thelma Keith and Gerald Stapley and they will try to contact some of the players. We have asked the ARIZONA REPUBLIC and PHOENIX GAZETTE to run an announcement in the sports section asking former Saints players to contact Thelma, Gerald or Alice Messick. If you, as a former booster, have kept in contact with any of the players, please let them know about our program. Also, please do the same for any boosters you may remember. We have a skeleton list but it is far from complete.

We plan to have publicity in the local papers closer to the date, May 17th. Hopefully they will print it...you can't ever tell these days.

In our files we have programs for the years 1971 through 1983. Can you supply any of the missing years? Also, any other memorabelia?

Let's have a good turn-out, see you the 17th'. If you have any questions please call and leave a message at 974-2568 or my home, 974-5377.

Cordially,

∮ane Freeman Archivist OVER

10801 Oakmont Dr. • Sun City, Arizona 85351 • (602) 975-2568

RECOGNITION DAY

SAINTS

SUN CITY

SUNDAY MAY 17,1992 2:00-4:00 P.M. SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 10801 OAKMONT DRIVE SUN CITY, ARIZONA

WELCOME COACHES THELMA KEITH & GERALD STAPLEY RENEW FRIENDSHIPS WITH TEAM MEMBERS SEE SPECIAL DISPLAYS - MEMORABELIA ENJOY TROPHIES - 32 OF THEM

FURTHER INFORMATION

974-2568

Heavenly

Saints reunion set for this Sunday

By ANN T. DALEY Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Former Sun City Saints Coach Thelma Keith remembers playing softball the night that astronaut Neil Armstrong took the first steps on the moon on July 20, 1969.

"We were playing against the astronauts landing on the moon and we

Softball

still had about 270 fans sitting in the stands at the old field at 107th and Grand (avenues)," Keith said. "That's dedication."

Former Saints players and coaches will join Keith in reminiscing at a reunion hosted by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society this Sunday. Fans and boosters are invited to attend the reunion from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive.

Refreshments and souvenir Sun City Saints hand-held cooling fans will be available.

SCAHS archivist Jane Freeman has been collecting Saints memorábilia to display at the reunion. Among the items are 32 Saints trophies, autographed balls, uniforms and game programs spanning the team's inception in 1966 through their final season in 1984. In 1990, the team regrouped and played in the national



Stephen Chernek/Daily News-Sun Buttons and other Saints memorabilia will be on display this Sunday.

tournament, but moved to Phoenix in 1991 when players opted to change leagues.

Freeman said the reunion will highlight the society's celebration of National Historic Preservation Month and Sun City founder Del E. Webb's birthday.

"We wanted to feature one group from the Sun Cities each month and I thought there would be a lot of interest in the Saints," Freeman said.

Through a 25-year history in Sun City, the Saints finished as Amateur Softball Association National Champions in 1979 and three-time champions in the Olympic Sports Festival.

"This is wonderful," Keith said of the reunion. "Who knows, it might generate some interest. (Sun Citians) adopted us and we were a big part of this community for a long time.

"It left a big void in the community and in my life and my heart when the team disbanded."

Although the Saints have disbanded, Keith, Freeman and former Coach Gerald Stapley have contacted and received commitments from a number of former players.

Among players expected to return are pitcher Billie Harris, shortstop Ginger Kurtz, shortstop-outfielder Susie Gaw, second baseman Karen Fellenz, outfielder Val Troxcel, shortstop Woody Woodcott, first baseman Gay Turley and mother-daughter third base duo Rosie and Helen Andrade.

"I was surprised when I got the phone call and a couple of letters," Stapley said of the reunion. "I talked to some of the kids and they're planning on riding out with me.

"It should be a lot of fun."



Evelyn Parry, a Sun City Pioneer, proudly displays various Saints memorabilia and awards which are on display at the Sun Citles Historical Society. The society will host a Saints Recognition Day, 2-4 p.m May 17..

Society takes Jane Freeman Ω 0 Swing the with Sun Ω Cities Sun City Area Saints toy Historical bat. The society will play host to a reun boosters and former players this Sunday a reunion 0 tans



Saints. honor day. scheduled

By Julia Jones Staff writer

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SUN CITY - A Sun City Saints Recognition Day is planned for 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive.

The celebration honoring the now-defunct women's softball team is a highlight of the society's observance of National Historic Preservation week. Sunday happens to be the anniversary of the birth of the late Del Webb, founder of Sun City, said Jane Freeman, a member of the Historical Society and of the Saints Booster Club.

On hand for the celebration will be Saints coaches Thelma Keith and Gerald Stapley, plus several team members and a special display of memorabilia.

The first Saints home game was played at the field at 109th and Grand avenues on May 7, 1966; the Sun City Stadium at 111th and Grand avenues opened July 4, 1971.

Although no team members who ranged in age, from 16 to 26 years, ever lived in the Sun Cities, support for the "home team" was wholehearted, said John Davisson, former, president? of the booster club.

club. During the Sainta's glory years, in the 1970s, the team won two Pacific- Coast League Champion-ships, toured South Africa Rhode-sia and Australia, won two na-tional rournaments, and was runner-up in international competition. Four players on the 1979 team were named to the All-Amer-E-ican Team They were Lynn Mooney, Marilyn Rau, Paula Noel, and Suzi Gaw

But the team faced the beginning of the end, when the International Women's Professional Softball League Association was formed in 1976, and most of the Saints' opponents fled to be part of the first professional women's team-sport enterprise.

3

Because of a lack of qualified opponents and increasing stadium operating costs, the Saints folded in the mid 1980s. A brief flurry toward reviving the team was made in 1990, and the team, in fact, finished eighth out of 38 in national competition, but the team folded again at the end of the season

The celebration and display will be arranged in the Historical Society headquarters in the first home built in Sun City. The house sold for \$8,500 in 1960, Freeman said. Information on the Society and the celebration is available at 974-2568.

"Preservation Brings History to Life" is the theme of this year's National Historic Preservation Week.

The hometown team Special event pays tribute to Sun City Saints

By BRET MCKEAND

Sun Cities Independent

Sun City Stadium has hosted a number of professional ballteams over the years and has seen the likes of such greats as Henry Aaron, Rod Carew and Reggie Jackson.

Ballteams have come and gone over the years, but the most popular team to ever grace the Sun City diamond may have been a team of female softball players, the Sun City Saints.

It's been almost 30 years since the Saints played their first game in Sun City. According to local historians, the community's fondness for the Saints continues as strong as ever.

The Sun Cities Historical Society will conduct their first Sun City Saints Recognition Day on May 17. The event will be held 2-4 p.m. at the society's headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

According to Jane Freeman, president of the society, letters have been sent to several former Saints players and organizers are hopeful many will be on hand for the event.

The team was organized in 1966 and was known as one of the



In addition to playing softball, members of the Sun City Saints often became involved in various fund-raising activities. It was not uncommon to find Saints players roaming the stands before a game, selling kisses for \$1 in an effort to help a local charity.

strongest female softball teams in the nation. During their 18-yearrun in Sun City, the Saints won numerous championships, raised a tremendous amount of money for local charities and were seen by thousands upon thousands of loyal fans.

"They were very popular and well-supported by Sun City," says Mrs. Freeman. According to "Jubilee," a book detailing the history of Sun City, the Saints were the offshoot of the Phoenix Ramblers, a women's softball team which disbanded in 1965.

Team members were lured to Sun City in 1966. A local newspaper published a survey, "Should Sun City have a women's softball team?" and the response was overwhelmingly positive.

On May 7, 1966, the team played its first game in a new stadium constructed on the corner of Grand and 108th avenues, where JB's Restaurant now exists.

The first stadium seated 1,000 fans and sellouts were the norm, not the exception. A local boosters club was soon organized and, in addition to tickets, money was raised through concessions and team merchandise.

Retha Beveridge, one of the founders of the Saints Boosters Club, recalls how "everybody just loved the Saints." Attendance was always solid — 1,000 people would be considered "poor attendance" back then.

"They were kind of like our daughters," she says. "And there were no problems raising money. Everyone would pitch in."

Mrs. Beveridge remembers one particular game where the Saints battled their opponents for 36

See SAINTS, Page B4

SAINTS

From Page 1

innings. "Everyone stayed until the end and we didn't get home until about 3:30 a.m."

The Saints were scheduled to play the very next morning and, when she and her husband got to the ballpark, "there were several hundred people who remained at the stadium."

Bev Dryer-Stewart, the original owner and first coach of the team, says the closeness of the community at that time was one of the reasons behind the team's popularity.

"(Sun City) was a small community then and most people felt the Saints were their ballteam," she says.

The team quickly became "part of the community" and, through their participation in community activities outside of softball, they grew close to many of their most loval fans.

"We felt like we were their daughters," says Ms. Dryer-Stewart.

"The girls made themselves available. After the games they would go up and talk to many of the fans.

" They would attend events in the community. The people got to know (players) by name and there was definitely a close relationship," she adds.

Like many people, Mrs. Beveridge was disappointed to see the team leave in 1984. "It was a shock to everyone when we found out they weren't coming back," she recalls. "It wasn't for lack of support or attendance."

The stadium was sold in 1984 and the future status of the ballpark

was uncertain. The Saints, unable to afford the increased rent and unsure of their future, left for Phoenix.

The history of the Saints will be relived through various displays of uniforms, old programs and other memorabilia at the May 17 Recognition Day.

The Saints exhibit will remain on display at the Historical Society throughout the summer. Starting next fall, Mrs. Freeman says the organization plans to feature a different organization each month.

The Recognition Day and open house are being held in conjunction with National Historic Preservation Week and, coincidentally, happens to fall on the birthday of Del Webb, founder of Sun City.

The public is welcome to the event. Refreshments will be served.

Sun City Saints highlights

1965 — Phoenix Ramblers disband

1965 — Local newspaper begins drive to bring softball team to Sun City.

1966 — Saints, consisting of several Ramblers players, begin play in Sun City.

1971 — Saints move into new Sun City Stadium.

1974-75 — Saints notch two consecutive Pacific Coast League titles.

1975 — Saints invited to compete in South Africa and Rhodesia.

1977 — Runners up in national tournament.

1979 — First place, national tournament.

1984 — Team moves to Phoenix, disbands. Source: Sun Cities Historical Society

Source. Sun Clues Historical Society

THE WESTER May 14-20, 1992

SPORTS

Recognition Day at Historic Society

by Ruth Borchardt

Not a "heavenly body," but a group of the greatest girl softball players ever. Join the fun! Come to a wonderful "package deal" on May 17 at 10801 Oakmont...Sun City honoring the Saints, Del Webb's birthday and National Historic Preservation Week. All this is put on by the Historic Society of Sun City.

Jane Freeman has been working diligently to bring this to fruitation... enjoyment guaranteed! Surrounded by nostalgic memorabilia and beautiful trophies, you may spot former coaches Thelma Keith and Gerald Stapley. Also some of the team members.

One of the players, Marilyn Rau who eclipsed many of the national players, hoped to come



Jane Freeman

but since she can't make it, mention should be made that she won the All American title 11 times and was voted into the Hall of Fame for lady softball players.

"Off and running" in 1966, the first Saint's home game was played on Grand Avenue.

On July 4, 1972 the stadium opened. In 1974

and '75 there were two Pacific Coast League Championships. 1975, away they went to South Africa and Rhodesia. Lucky seven! 1977 found winners and runner-ups in national and international tourna ments; also beat Tokye twice. 1979, the team garnered first place in the Nationals in Houston AND, a red letter day the same year the Pom Pon Girls' first appearance under the guidance o Corinne Leslie.

1983, the end of an era The stadium was sold to Bade Boyes of Glendale and the Saints played nmore until 1990 when they played in the Su-City Stadium and else where on week-ends; als playing in the National in California, where the finished 8th out of 3 teams! A remarkabl record for an accomplisheteam!

1e 4

Fri., May 15, 1992 The Arizona Republic/THE PHOENIX GAZETTE 3



By Julia Jones Staff writer

SUN CITY — A Sun City Saints Recognition Day is planned for 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive.

The celebration honoring the now-defunct women's softball team is a highlight of the society's observance of National Historic Preservation week. Sunday happens to be the anniversary of the birth of the late Del Webb, founder of Sun City, said Jane Freeman, a member of the Historical Society and of the Saints Booster Club.

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During the Saints' glory years, in the 1970s, the team won two Pacific Coast Leaguer champion ships, toured South Africa, Rhodesia and Australia, won two national tournaments! and was runner-up in international competition. Four players on the 1979 team were named to the All-American Team They were Lynn Mooney, Marilyn Rau, Paula Noel, and Suzi Gaw. But the team faced the beginning of the end, when the International Women's Professional Softball League Association was formed in 1976, and most of the Saints' opponents fled to be part of the first professional women's team-sport enterprise.

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"Preservation Brings History to Life" is the theme of this year's National Historic Preservation Week. Monday, May 18, 1992 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.



Rick D'Elia/Daily News-Sun

Harriette Kanel of Sun City, left, a fan of the Sun City Saints, a women's fast pitch softball team, chats Sunday with Billie Harris, a former Saints player who pitched for the team from 1970 to 1975. The Sun Cities Area Historical Society sponsored the Saints Recognition Day in the society's headquarters on Oakmont Drive.

Memorabilia wanted

Historical group seeks items about Sun Cities area from before 1960

By Betty Latty

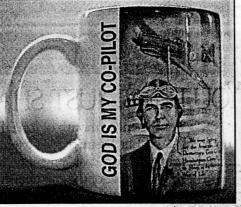
Special to Community

SUN CITIES — This summer, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society is reaching out to untapped sources such as Waddell, Litchfield Park, Peoria, Glendale and Wickenburg in hopes of finding memorabilia of the ranching countryside that became the Sun Cities.

Jane Freeman, chief archivist for the society — which is housed in one of Sun City's first model homes at 10801 Oakmont — has made a "want list" in the hopes that summer closet cleaners might come up with some pre-Sun Cities items such as newspaper clippings, photographs (identified, please,) and maps — that deal with the period from 1920-1960.

"We would love anything related to the early years of Grand Avenue," she said. "We need more history of Marinette, the little town that preceded us, and we would love to interview people who may have worked for Boswell Ranch or have photos and recollections of its cotton gin."

The society has a few photographs from the 1930s, she said, but "we could use a lot



Community

more."

"There used to be tent cities for migrant workers and cabins for those who worked year 'round," she said. "Those cabins were later moved. Somebody must have pictures from back then."

Freeman said she dreams of finding a photograph showing the old Santa Fe Railroad sign at Marinette, which was still standing when she moved to Sun City. "I kick myself now because I didn't take a See **HISTORY**. Page 5



Tom Tingle / Staff photographer

Looking over an old map of what later became Sun City are (from left) Agnes Fansler, Jane Freeman and Edna Ploeser. The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is looking for donations of items dealing with the period 1920-1960, such as this mug. It was produced to honor retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert Scott, author of "God is My Co-pilot" and a former Sun City resident.

Monday, June 22, 1992 The Arizona Republic/THE PHOENIX GAZETTE



picture of it," she said. Freeman, who with Glenn Saperg co-authored "Jubilee," chronicle written for Sun Cit 55th anniversary, said she wrote the railroad several times 1 material but never received reply. Among her summer projection another attempt to obtain infination from the railroad. Some information sought by t

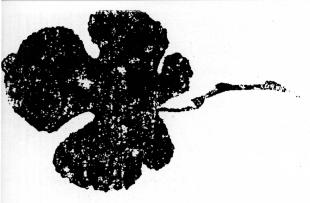
Some information sought by archives committee might of from Litchfield Park, Freer said, because the Boswell Ra operations were centered there.

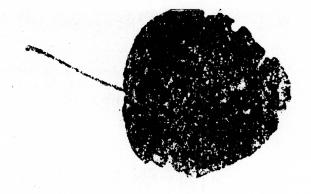
peratuons were centered there. Early telephone directories fron the surrounding communities, es eccially Peoria and Glendale, als pecially Peoria and Glendale, als rue on the "want list." Th archivists seek news articles an nformation about local residents ast and present.

A recent gift was a coffee mug produced to honor retired U.S. Ai Force Brig. Gen. Robert (Bob) Scot on his 84th birthday April 12. Scott, author of the World War II best seller "God Is My Co-Pilot" and 15 other books, and a former commander of Luke Air Force Base, lived in Sun City for 16 years. He is affiliated with the Museum of Aviation at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. "If anyone has clippings or photos they don't want to part

Agnes and Rita Williams, Free to spend her summe nonths sorting photographs, copy volunteers originals glad return the with we will plans nan said. Along ansler man and

ing and cataloging. The historical society will be open by appointment only during June, July and August, Freeman said. Visitors and those hoped-fo donors may leave messages a 974-2568, and calls will be re turned.





SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

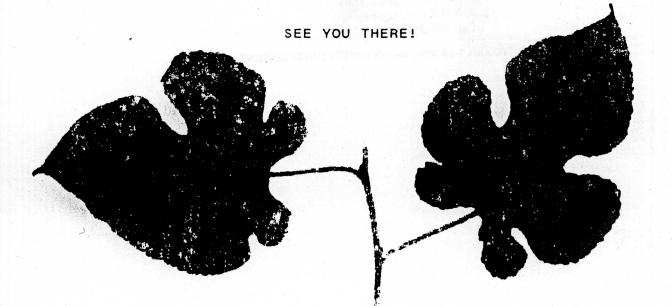
to the Fall Membership Luncheon and Meeting

DATE:	Tuesday,	November	17,	1992
and a statement of the	, , ,		,	

- PLACE; Palmbrook Country Club 9350 Greenway Rd., Sun City
- <u>TIME</u>; 12 Noon, Luncheon, followed by Business meeting and reports
- PRICE; \$11.00 per person
- SPEAKERS: Burt and Ursula Friereich (first Owners & Editors of Sun City News-Sun Newspeper)

Please plan to come and enjoy fellowship with friends and fellow members and hear an outstanding program.

Your Reservation is your check for \$11.00 per person, made payable to SCAHS and sent to 10801 Oakmont Dr., Sun City, AZ., 85351 by November 10, 1992.



PAGE 2 -- SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT -- NOVEMBER 11-17, 1992

Historical Society slates fall luncheon

The Sun Cities Historical Society will hold its fall membership luncheon Nov. 17 at Palmbrook Country Club in Sun City. Guest speakers for the event will be Burt and Ursula Freireich, original owners of the Daily News-

Sun. Admission is \$11 and checkes should be made payable to the Historical Society and sent to 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Historical Society announces new hours The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has announced its fall and winter hours. The organization's headquarters and museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, will be open for visitors 1130-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 975-2568.

OCTOBER 7-13, 1992 -SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT--

Former publishers recall early days in Sun City

By JACQUE PAPPAS Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — About 32 years ago, a young sports reporter bought the community's first newspaper with a \$1,500 down payment.

Burt Freireich, who worked at the Phoenix Gazette for 10 years, had always dreamed of owning his own newspaper.

In 1960, Freireich and his wife, Ursula, bought the Youngtown News and Sun City Sun from Sid Lambert, who founded the tabloidsized, semimonthly paper in 1957.

On Tuesday, the Freireichs shared their newspaper memories with about 40 local residents at a Sun Cities Area Historical Society luncheon.

"One thing that stands out in my mind is that fire at the Lakes Club," Burt Freireich said of the massive blaze in 1972. "I ran the photo five columns on Page One. Ever since then I'm sorry that I didn't run it six columns because it was such a good picture."

Freireich said he covered a number of "controversial issues" from the time he published his first issue on July 22, 1960, to 1984 when he sold the newspaper to current owner Ottaway Newspapers Inc.

The News-Sun covered the Youngtown incorporation election, the attempted incorporation of Sun City and what Freireich called the "Berlin Wall controversy." "In the early years, it got so members could only use the center near their home so those who belonged to Oakmont Center could not use Fairway Center. Eventually, everything merged into one and peace reigned," Freireich said.

The first year the Freireichs owned the paper, Burt did most of the reporting, writing and photography while Ursula took care of personnel, circulation and advertising.

"Burt was acting like an expecting father. ... He was so excited to have his own newspaper," his wife said.

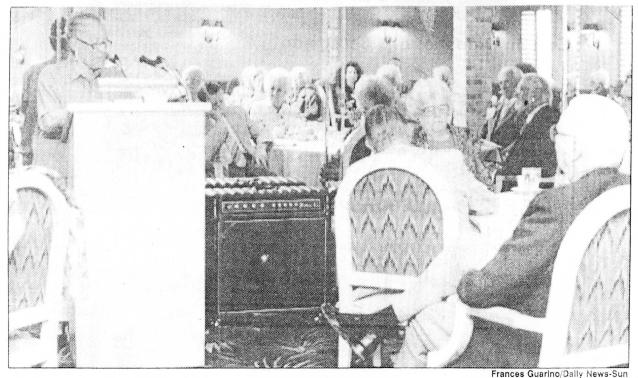
In April 1961, the Freireichs got a small office at Grand Center and eventually moved to another office on Coggins Drive. As the staff grew with the community, the Freireichs moved to a two-story building on Santa Fe Drive in 1978.

In 1988 the Daily News-Sun moved into a new building just down the street at 10102 Santa Fe Drive.

"At times I thought we were running a chamber of commerce. People would call and ask all sorts of questions," Ursula said.

"I enjoyed the years we had at the paper. I enjoyed writing and miss all the people.

"I remember one day the press stopped and we were not able to go to print. The phone lines went crazy. It was then when I realized how important it was to people."



Ursula Freireich speaks to the Sun City Historical Society Tuesday at Palmbrook Country Club Freireich and her husband, Burt, are former owners of the Daily News-Sun.

Former Daily News-Sun owner to share memories The original owners of the Daily News-Sun will share their memories of the early days at the newspaper at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society luncheon Tuesday. Burt and Ursula Freireich made a \$1,500 down payment and became publisher of the monthly tabloid-size News-Sun in July 1960. In 1984 the paper was sold to Ottaway Newspapers, a subsidiary of Dow Jones and Co. The public may attend the Historical Society's Fall Membership Luncheon, which begins at noon at the Palmbrook Country club, 9350 Greenway Road. The cost is \$11 per person. Send a check to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, 85351.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Thursday, Nov. 12, 1992

Auxiliary to aid historical society

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is forming an auxiliary to assist in preserving and cataloging thousands of photographs, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia from the community's early days.

Auxiliary volunteers are needed to do a number of things from mounting old photographs to helping set up exhibits at the society headquarters, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.

This month, an exhibit of the Sun City Saints women's softball team is on display.

The headquarters is housed in the first model home built in Sun City. The home is open to the public from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. weekdays and features a variety of exhibits.

A display case of Sun Cities area memorabilia will also be installed in the Sun City West Foundation Community Building, 14475 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Rose Larsen, secretary of the historical society, said she hopes about 50 local residents volunteer.

"It's just tremendous to think about all the things we have. We need the community's help to preserve them in the best way possible," Larsen said.

For more information about becoming an auxiliary volunteer, call 972-8028.



Frances Guarino/Daily News-Sun 11-24-92

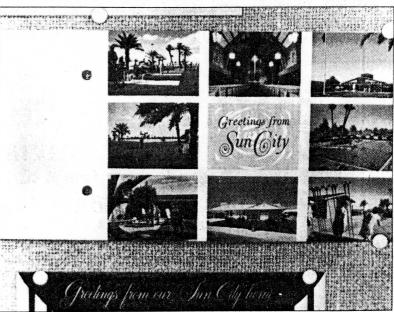
Edna Ploeser, a hostess at the Sun City Historical Society, brouses through photographs from the 1920's.

- SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT - DECEMBER 23-29, 1992



Greetings from Sun City!

An exhibit of Sun City postcards and Christmas greetings is currently on display at the Sun Cities Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive. Fifty-two postcards dating back to 1961 are included in the display, as well as eight varieties of Del Webb Christmas cards. The holiday greetings were given to residents between the years of 1960 and 1970 and the society is in search of two missing years. Residents wishing to donate items for the display are welcome to call 974-2568. Above, Glenn Sanberg reviews the exhibit.



Historical Society forming auxiliary

By Lori Baker Staff writer

SUN CITIES — The Sun Cities Historical Society is forming an auxiliary to help organize volunteer activities.

• The first auxiliary meeting will be at 11 a.m. Jan. 23 at the society's headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive.

Rose Larsen, auxiliary secretary, said the group is searching for men and women to volunteer a few hours each month.

Hostesses and hosts are needed to assist with open-house celebrations. They also would greet visitors during the museum's hours from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. weekdays.

Other projects needing volunteers include:

Two people are needed to work

on the vertical file. They would clip newspaper articles, copy them on acid-free paper and file them.

■Someone is needed to inventory materials on the Sun City Saints softball team.

■ Help is needed in setting up a file for Sun City West.

■Assistance is needed to select slides that are pertinent to Sun Cities history and to sequence a slide presentation.

■ People are needed to help with the society's newsletter and mailing.

■ Help is needed in planning monthly displays.

"The rewarding aspect of cataloging and recording for the Sun Cities area Historical Society is the knowledge that one's efforts are of historical value," Larsen said. "One is not perpetrating a series of ephemeral events but is perpetuating history."

The historical society was begun in October 1985. The first house built in Sun City serves as the society's headquarters, where memorabilia, maps, photos and news clippings about the Sun Cities are kept.

A satellite office in Sun City West was opened last year and a display is being created for public viewing.

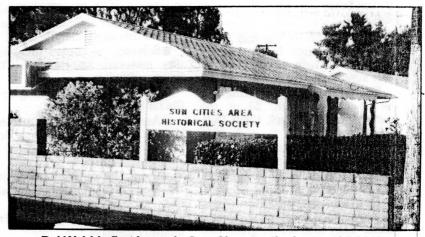
People interested in volunteering can call Jane Freeman, the museum's chief archivist at 974-2568. Freeman is the co-author of "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona," which chronicles the history of Sun City through 1985.

Wednesday, January 13, 1993 The Arizona Republic/THE PHOENIX GAZETTE 9

Fast Growing Sun Cities Area Historical Society Organizing Needed Auxiliary

Story & Photos, Stan Steciak

The SCAHS (Sun Cities Area Historical Society) is growing by leaps and bounds. So fast that it now needs an auxiliary to assist the Board of Trustees. Volunteers are desperately needed to work on vertical files and to clip items from newspapers and to file them. Help is needed to inventory materials and there is a lot of materials. Someone must look at slides and save those pertinent to the history of the Sun Cities. Personnel is needed to handle the newsletter and its mailing and to set up monthly displays. There is a great need for hosts and hostesses to greet visitors during the hours of 1:30 to 3:30 p.m, HISTORICAL SOCIETY Continued on Page 10



Del Webb's first home in Sun City now the home of SCAHS

Historical Society Continued from Page 1

Monday through Friday. Most important, to Westers, is that volunteers are needed to set up a file for the history of Sun City West.

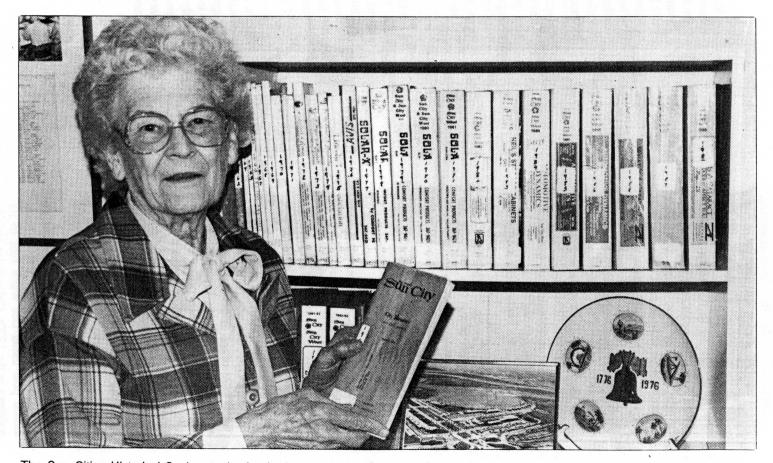
Joining the auxiliary will be rewarding because your efforts will be of historical value. Rose Larsen, secretary of the SCAHS, reminds all that the first meeting (it will be a historical event) of the auxiliary will be Saturday, Jan. 23rd, at 11 a.m. A luncheon will follow a brief orientation. The meeting place will be an interesting one to visit because the home at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, is

the first home built by Del Webb. If memory serves right, Mr. Webb actually worked on this home. The Historical Society is headquartered in this historical place. Soon it will have an office in Sun City West too.

PAGE 2 - SUN CITY 33RD ANNIVERSARY, SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT - JANUARY 20, 1993

History in the making

Historical Society preserves community's past, records the present



The Sun Cities Historical Society maintains its headquarters in a building which once served as the first Sun City model home. The building, located at 10801 Oakmont Ave., is staffed by volunteers and serves as a permanent home for old photos and Sun City memorabilia. Volunteer Evelyn Parry looks over a collection of Sun City telephone directories dating back to 1960.

By ANNE RYMAN Sun Cities Independent

One local organization believes in saving everything associated with the history of the Sun Cities.

Since 1985, the Sun Cities Historical Society has collected and preserved historical information about life in the two retirement communities.

The society, located at 10801 Oakmont Ave., Sun City, collects newspaper clippings, photographs, maps and other memorabilia from Sun City's 33-year history and Sun City West's 15-year existence.

"We're also interested in present-day things, too, because 50 years from now it will be history, " says Jane Freeman, society archivist. This includes information about new buildings, community services and day-to-day events.

The Sun Cities Historical Society was organized in 1986 after a group of residents got together to work on a book about the history of Sun City, "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Ariz."

"We had all this material we gathered when we were writing 'Jubilee.' What were we going to do with it? We said 'we'll set up a historical society," Mrs. Freeman says.

Since that time, the organization has grown to include 226 members. In 1989, society members purchased the first model home built in Sun City and converted it into a historical museum and headquarters. The building is open to the public from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In July 1991, they added the original Del Webb sales office to the southwest corner of the organization's building. Del Webb officials opened the sales office in January 1960, and 200,000 people visited it the first'weekend.

Today, the former sales office is home to photographs of the early history of Marinette (the town which once existed where Sun City now exists), Sun City's early days of development and the first sketches of model homes.

The museum also features early memorabilia such as the elaborate three-dimensional post cards Del Webb sent to its residents in the 1970s. Collectibles include keyrings and buttons, as well as early souvenirs such as ashtrays commemorating the fifth anniversary of Sun City.

Volunteers have catalogued thousands of photographs, obituaries and newspaper articles, but much work remains, Mrs. Freeman says. Boxes of slide photographs must be examined to see if the people and events in them can be identified.

The society gets its items from local residents and organizations. To determine whether something has historical significance, Mrs. Freeman says the item, phot-

ograph or clipping must relate to the Sun Cities area. It should be dated and identified, particularly if there are people in a photograph.

In addition to its collection of historical items, the society hosts periodic exhibits and sponsors special programs. In May 1991, society members hosted a cele-

bration for former members of the Sun City Saints. The women's softball team was organized in 1965.

"We invited all the team members back and served hot dogs, popcorn and soda just like the ballpark. We had 200 people," Mrs. Freeman says. Society members plan another special

program this spring on an as-yet undetermined subject. They hope to host at least two programs a year - one in the spring and one in the fall.

To help with special programs, exhibits and general filing, the society plans to form an auxiliary group of about 40 people, says Rose Larson, secretary.

New auxiliary lends helping hand

By ANNE RYMAN

Sun Cities Independent

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is looking for volunteers to help preserve the history of the two retirement communities.

Board members want to form an auxiliary of 40 people to assist with filing, inventory and clipping photographs and newspaper articles, says Rose Larson, secretary of the 226-member organization.

"I've watched Jane Freeman, our archivist, and her assistants do more work than three can handle," she says.

"Every single obituary comes out of the paper. Every photo of historical significance is put on special paper and filed."

Projects for auxiliary members include:

A display on Sun City West in the Sun City West Community Services Building.

■ Serve as hosts and hostesses to assist with open houses and during visiting hours — 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Prepare a quarterly newsletter that goes to society members

■ Inventory materials on the Sun City Saints, a woman's softball league organized in 1965.

Construct periodic displays.

■ Clip items of interest from newspapers, copy them on acid-free paper and file them.

The time commitment is up to the person who chooses to volunteer, Mrs. Larson says. "I think four of five hours a month is adequate," Mrs. Larson says. "If we had several people giving this much, we could get so much done."

Those who are interested may contact Mrs. Larson at 972-8028. A short orientation session is planned for 11 a.m. Jan. 23 at the society's headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Since 1985, the Sun Cities Historical Society has collected newspaper clippings, photographs, maps and other memorabilia from Sun City's 33-year history and Sun City West's 15-year existence.

Mrs. Freeman is looking forward to the extra help of an auxiliary.

"We can give them all kinds of projects.

"We're hoping someone will be interested in going through slides and deciding what is pertinent. And we have a lot of scrapbooks to critique (for historical value)," she says.

JANUARY 20, 1993 --- SUN CITY'S 33RD ANNIVERSARY, SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT --

Friday, Jan. 29, 1993 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

'Century of Diversity' distills the essence of Glendale's history

By EVELYN BARBER

Editorial page editor

Just received my copy of the history of Glendale, commissioned during the city's 100th anniversary in 1992.

It's beautiful, absolutely beautiful.

Leafing through "Glendale, Century of Diversity" brought back memories of the 18 years — from 1959 to 1977 — when I

lived in Glendale and worked on the weekly newspaper (until 1973 when I joined the News-Sun.)

The city was founded by a religious group — no hard drink was served anywhere in the new settlement and that was prominently mentioned in the fliers inviting Midwesterners to settle in the teetotalling town.

So many names in the book are familiar, people who contributed much to the development of Glendale, people I knew and admired. We set the stage, we who had a sense of the future, for the growth we knew would come. And it did.

As I skimmed that warm, personal and picture-filled book, I was reminded of Thelma Heatwole, newspaperwoman of excellence, who was an important part of Glendale's history as well as its recorder. Many times, I pestered Thelma to write a history of Glendale, which she knew so well firsthand.

Thelma never found the time, but I know she would be inordinately proud of everyone who had a part in creating this splendid book. I'm terribly proud, just from skimming through and reading here and there where something jogged my memory — including the two mentions of my name, which puts me in Glendale's history. Now I will read it through, every word and more than once. It's a dream come true.

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Glendale's book reminds me of the Sun City history, "Jubilee," written to celebrate the community's 25th anniversary. It, too, was a beautiful book and a perfect example of the need for every community to collect its history in words and pictures.

The Historical Society of the Sun Cities Area is always in the process of collecting and storing the stories, the pictures and the artifacts that make up the memory of a community. Everybody who has Sun Cities memorabilia ought to get in touch with the group. Call 974-2568. Contributions are deductible.

Sun City will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2010 AD and some local writer of that era should have plenty of material to update the development of the lifestyle that was pioneered in 1960.

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Double takes



-SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT--MARCH 17-23, 1993

Sun Cities Historical Society slates open house

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 20 at the first model home in Sun City, 10801 Oakmont Aye.

Displays will include postcards of the Sun Cities dating from 1960,

pamphlets on retirement centers and the original sales office for model homes.

Visitors can brouse through scrapbooks, copies of old photographs, telephone directories that go back to 1961 and books about the communities or by local authors. Refreshments will be provided.

"Hopefully, people will come away with the feeling that this is something that should be preserved," Archivist Jane Freeman says about the history of the two communities. "If we don't save it now, we

won't have it in the future. Right now, people don't think of Sun City having a history, but it is 33 years old."

Wednesday, March 17, 1993

The Arizona Republic/THE PHOENIX GAZETTE 5

Historical Society sets open house

SUN CITY — The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will host an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at its headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive. Features include a Sun City Saints Women's Baseball Team Room, including trophies, publicity, pictures and articles, scrapbooks and other Saints memora-

Displays also include photos of

bilia.

the first house plans, price listings and aerial photos of the community and recent photos of retirement centers. A collection of books by area writers also is featured.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Tuesday, March 16, 1993 Community A3

n house marks SC's 33rd birthday Daily News-Sun staff

More than three decades ago, Del

Now, members of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society are preparing to celebrate the 33rd anniversary of that tract turned-Sun City.

An open house is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in the Sun Cities Historical Society office, 10801 Oakmont Drive. The office is the first model home in the community, which opened its doors to prospec-

tive buyers in January 1960. Still the of first Sun City telephone directory; an

E. Webb set out to turn a tract of see the beginning of Sun City," said about Sun City, desert land west of Phoenix into the Genevieve Lewis, a member of the of The post card collection shows off largest retirement community in the historical society and co-chairwoman¹ the Sun City way of life from 1960 to nation.

Photographs, post cards, books and other memorabilia showcasing the history of Sun City will be on display. cuses on the numerous retirement

nette Ranch, a 20.000-acre settlement e day, a process which flonal 16 cents per round in Greenberg and the golf course tween Feb. 1 and Api

-zya out bezadori the displays.

Also on display will be the exhibit, "The New Way of Life," which fo-Included will be pictures of Mari-, homes that have been developed in and around the Sun Cities in the

Members of the historical society "This should be very interesting, to obituary file; and books written will be on hand Saturday to explain

> The open house will take place in conjunction with the Oakmont Recreation Center Fun Fair, which will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at 10725 Oakmont Drive, next door to the historical society office.

"We hope a lot of people will stop between the Agua Fria and New w past 30 years. Disod lies to should le Sun City," Lewis said. It semili eet to in as we celebrate the 33rd year of rivers in the 1920s; photographs of a or All items iwere a donated by oresists ovil out is -ile bloow oels meter Sun City dating to 1960; Sun Citya dents and the Del Webb Corp., Lewis a For open house information, call Saints trophies and memorabilia; they said: "They ned" -ibbs na staller 974-2568.00 - of status entry entry and



Tellos Insibni Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun Jane Freeman of the Sun Cities Historical Society leafs through one of the group's many scrapbooks. the tee times they wanted." a sint

Historians mark city's 33rd year

By ROSA De SIMONE

Daily News-Sun staff SUN CITY. — Aside from free cookies, interesting facts about the first house built in Sun City were served during the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's open house Saturday.

dogs from next door's Oakmont Recreaton Center Fun Fair was tantalizing, so was the smorgasbord of history available inside the first house built in this retirement community.

Old pictures and brochures were displayed in the 33-year-old house at house with several optional fea-10801 Oakmont Drive. The original tures," a brochure read. sales office, about the size of a typical walk-in closet, was transplanted from its home across the street to the

side of the 33-year-old house. The sales office was restored, allowing visitors to enter and read about a new community called Sun

City. "So many people aren't aware of all the interesting things that have been collected over the years," said And while the aroma of grilled hot Evelyn Parry, a member of the historical society.

> Sid Barrick was interested in an old brochure in the sales office advertising the prices of Del E. Webb's homes in 1960:

> "Ranging from \$8,500 for the Basic Small Home to \$13,400 for the largest

> "I'd buy a house for \$8,500," Barrick was quick to say.



Iria Geehan of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society hands out brochures Saturday to a visitor to the society's headquarters in the first See Displays impress, A5 home built in Sun City at 10801 Oakmont Drive.

-From A1

Barrick and his wife Betty are visiting for the winter. "He (Webb) had the foresight back 30 years ago to build a house that's handicap accessible," Barrick said.

Samuel and Muriel McCullough, who bought their Sun City home 10 years ago, were equally impressed with the historical society's displays.

"I think it's marvelous." Muriel said. "They've brought together all the different eras (of information) very nicely." Samuel, a retired farmer, especially liked the black and white photos of farms from the 1920s "with all the mules"

that thrived in Marinette, the community that preceeded Sun City. Jeun gromanon give

The open house also attracted Gladys Schroeder - a 17year-resident who had never visited the historical society office.

"With the Oakmont fair next door I thought this was a good chance to see it," Schroeder said. "I think anything that's historical is important."

Displays impress Sun City visitors

Historian to speak on Arizona

SUN CITY WEST - Nationally known historian Reba Wells will speak about Arizona at 1 p.m. May 12 at the Sun City West Community Center, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

She will be addressing the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's annual spring membership meeting.

The Arizona Republic/THE PHOENIX GAZETTE

Monday, May 3,

1993

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In observance of National Historic Preservation Week, Wells will give a slide presentation. She also will describe the preservation of memorabilia and information related to America's frontier West. Reservations are not required.

Wells is the daughter of a pioneer New Mexico family. She has lived in Phoenix since 1982. She holds degrees from the University of New Mexico in education, Southwest history and history of the American West. She taught in Albuquerque schools for 17 years.

She has done research in Maricopa, Cochise, Yuma and Yavapai counties. She also has studied the Sunnyslope community in north Phoenix.

--MAY 5-11, 1993



Reba Wells. historian with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, will be the featured speaker at the Sun Cities Historical Society spring meeting, 1 p.m. May 12. The meeting will be held at the Sun City West Community Services Building.

SC Historical Society slates spring meeting

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold its annual spring membership meeting May 12 to commemorate National Historic Preservation Week.

The meeting will be held at 1 p.m. in the Sun City West Community Services Building, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West.

Reba Wells, Ph.D., historian with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, will talk about "Arizona, Young and Old."



Meeting program highlights frontier journey

A historian with the Arizona State lated to America's frontier West

Daily News-Sun staff

speak at the Sun Cities Area His Historic Preservation Office wil

membership meeting Wednesday. torical Society's annual spring

Reba Wells will help the local

cluding Fort Yuma, the San Ber search throughout the state, and publishing about the Old West dedicated to stimulating interest Wells has also done extensive re-Westerners International, a group nardino/John Slaughter Ranch near An immediate past president of in-

Yuma-area Quechan Indians Douglas, the Richard DeKuhr homestead in Cherry and the

tion and speak on the preservation

memorabilia and information re-

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Wells will give a slide presenta

toric Preservation Week, which

Wells, who has degrees in educa-tion, Southwest history and the hischief curator for the Central served as research historian for the tory of the American West, has torical Society. zona division of the Arizona His-Yuma Crossing Foundation and Ari-

Johnson Blvd. Members and Community Center, 14465 friends are invited to attend Wednesday in the Sun City Wells will speak at p.m. West their R.H.

THE WESTER

Freeman Addresses Pen Women



(L. to r.) Eleanor Abell-Johnson, president of Sun Cities Pen Women, Jane Freeman, speaker at the April 17 meeting, and new members Peg Behrel and Joy Medley.

Story & Photo, Mildred Baker

Sun Cities Branch of National League of American Pen Women closed the year with a spring luncheon at The Madison in Sun City West Saturday, April 17th.

Jane Freeman, who was original chair of the Sun City Historical Society and has worked with the organization since its beginning at the time of the 25th anniversary of Sun City, gave a very interesting address. She cited pertinent incidents in the history of these communities and circulated maps, pictures and newspaper references to early days of this area.

"The Wickenburg Vulture Mine has a remote connection with the Sun Cities," she explained. "Grand Avenue was originally known as "Vulture Road," a main stagecoach route."

Marinette, the location of a post office in 1912, was named by a man from Marinette, Wisconsin.

Del Webb built Luke Air Force Base in 1941.

She stated that the Sun City Museum shelves hold many books written by local Pen Women.

Three women became new members in the letters category. Madge Saksena, Glendale, a creative writing teacher and founder of a California Writers' Club; Joy Medley and Hazel Spavin, both of Sun City.

Peg Behrel joined in the art category. Her paintings hang in several area establishments including Sun Cities Art Museum. aily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Friday, May 14, 1993

Arizona history lives as researcher pictures John Slaughter's story

By EVELYN BARBER Editorial page editor

Arizona may be the third youngest of the states, at only 81, but it's one of the most beautiful and has accumulated a lot of historical significance in its comparatively few years.

We heard a fascinating portion of that history in a slide-show talk Wednesday by Reba Wells, a historian for the Arizona

Historic Preservation Society, at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's spring meeting.

We were all familiar, of course, with the name and fame of John Slaughter, an Arizona sheriff who inspired such fear in outlaws that many of them avoided his territory.

He has been featured in movies and books as one of the best and bravest of lawmen in the brief period that was the historic Old West.

But we didn't know the real story of John Slaughter and his San Bernardino Ranch, which straddled the Arizona-Mexico border of the late 1800s and early 1900s.

With slides of pictures she had accumulated over five years of research, Dr. Wells

Double takes



reconstructed the lives of Slaughter and his young wife, Viola, and their often burgeoning household at the San Bernardino Ranch, near Douglas. The ranch, restored to its original appearance, is now in the National Register of Historic Places.

Viola, a pampered young woman from the East, met and fell in love with John Slaughter when she was only 17 and he was 39, a widower with two children. She accepted the rugged life of the western frontier with courage and determination, and refused to let Slaughter send his two young children away to be raised by relatives.

Not only did she and her husband give their love to his children, but to an ongoing assortment of strays who needed shelter through the years. At one time a black child, an Indian child, a Hispanic child and an Anglo child all were in their care — a rainbow coalition on the frontier.

Slaughter was in the cattle business, and had as many as 90 employees, which of course made cooking a large undertaking. But in addition, the Slaughters found that the tourist business was a financial help. They entertained visitors from all parts of the United States who had heard of the beautiful San Bernardino Ranch and wanted to share in the Slaughter's hospitality. The fun times were many, especially for the Slaughter children who by that time were in their teens.

OVER

Dr. Wells has many anecdotes to tell of the Slaughters and of southern Arizona. One involved several years of research before she could authenticate it.

She had heard that a Mormon settler had built his house half within the United States and half within Mexico for a very special reason. But until a donation of pictures came into her hands from California, she could not be sure it was true. One picture proved the story.

It seems that the man had four wives, but could have only one in the United States. He built his house so that he and his first wife could live in the United States and his other three wives in Mexico.

Dr. Wells makes history live in her talks. She is enthusiastic about the history-gathering being done by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and encouraged the group to collect the history of these communities even while it is being made.

She outlined the requirements for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places: The building must be at least 50 years old; reflect the broad sweep of history; be associated with a historic person; possess unique architecture of a historic period; have the potential to yield information about history.

The San Bernardino/Slaughter Ranch fulfills all the qualifications. And Dr. Wells held out the prospect that one day there could be such historic sites in this area.

Incidentally, the historical society is always looking for volunteers who want to help assemble the artifacts and historic documents that tell the story of the retirement communities, especially relating to Sun City West. Just call 974-2568.

THE WESTER May 13-19, 1993

Dr. Reba Wells Addresses Historical Society

Story & Photo Marie Scotti

The sun Cities Area Historical Society held its Spring Membership Meeting on Wednesday, May 12 at the SCW Community Center. Sandy Goldstein, president, presided at a short business meeting prior to the program.

Dr. Reba Wells, nationally known historian for The Arizona State Historical Preservation Office addressed the members on "Arizona: Young and Old." She gave a slide presentation and a talk describing the preservation of memorabilia and data related to America's frontier West.

Communities thought Arizona celebrated the state's diverse historic and architectural heritage during the second week of May with activities ranging from tours of historic neighborhoods to historic craft demonstrations. These activities were part of Arizona's celebration of the 21st annual National Historic Preservation Week, designated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation for the purpose of promoting public awareness of our nation's cultural resources. The national theme for this year's Historic Preservation Week was "Preservation & Livable Communities: Make the Connection "

Dr. Wells told the audience about The National Register of Historic Places. Over 60,000 historic sites, objects and districts



including more the 700,000 buildings within the districts are listed in the 1993 National Register of Historic Places. "Saving these culturally significant places is what the preservation movement is all about" said Dr. Wells. Established under the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and administered by the National Register is the country's official inventory of districts, buildings, sites, structures and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture. Also

From J.: Jane Freeman, Historical Society Archives Chairman and Dr. Reba Wells, Arizona State Historical Preservation Office historian display Preservation Week poster during Historical Society meeting.

listed in the national Register are all historic areas in the National Park System and all designated Nation Historic Landmarks.

"Although National Register listing does not prevent an owner from demolishing, selling or altering the property, it does provide benefits, such as federal rehabilitation tax credits for income-producing buildings, cultural resource planning and national recognition" reported Dr. Wells.

Listing properties in the National Register often changes the way communities perceive their historic resources.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is organized as a nonprofit corporation exclusively for civic and educational purposes. Its task is to collect and preserve the historical data of the Sun DR. REBA WELLS Continued on Page 8

Dr. Wells Addresses Historical Society

Continued from Page 6

Cities area. The Society was incorporated in 1986 and is a tax-exempt corporation under Section 501 (s) (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. This qualifies contributions and membership support for tax exempt status.

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. The home is located at 10801 Oak Avenue, Sun City.

Membership in SCAHS will make it possible for continued scientific studies of the sociological aspects of the aging process. The Sun Cities are now concerned one of the most important gerontological laboratories in the world. Preservation of this vast storehouse of information is of monumental importance.

Membership dues are \$10 for individual \$15 for family, Supporting \$25 patron \$50 Sponsor\$100 Life \$250. Make checks payable to Sun Cities Area Historical Society Inc., and mail to 10801 Oakmont Avenue, Sun City, AZ. 85351.

Past lives anew in historical home

By MIKE GARRETT Daily News-Sun staff

into the Sun Cities Area Historical Webb's dream of an active adult Society home at 10801 Oakmont retirement community like none Ave. is just like taking 33 steps back other through today's blossoming of in time.

Promotional videos, maps, postcards, newspaper clippings and President Sandy Goldstein invites memorabilia such as old Sun City Saints softball team trophies fill every nook and cranny in one of the toric Preservation Week May 9- 16 community's original homes.

33 years when Sun City was one big May 28. block boasting one- and twobedroom model homes selling for Society bought Del Webb's first \$8.600 to \$12,000, a golf course, model home in 1989 for \$44,000, Oakmont Recreation Center and a said Glenn Sanberg, who along with swimming pool.

Grand Avenue was a stone's throw \$5.000 fixing it up and adding Del from the area's rich cotton fields.

ors have toured the historical home since January, society members es- \$9,000. timate thousands of Sun Citians have never set foot in the original Webb model and have little sense of the history of Sun City and the 15-year-old Sun City West.

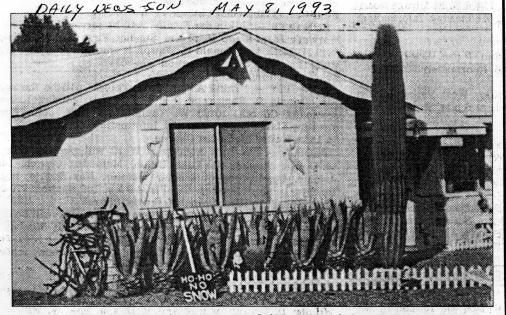
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Sun Cities Historical Society residents in both retirement communities to celebrate National Hisby reliving the Sun Cities' past. The At a glance, visitors can go back home will close for the summer

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> The opening of Sun City West in October 1978 didn't draw the curious as did Sun City in its infancy.

> But Sun City West's history is equally significant to society of-



A postcard from 1961 depicts one of the original Sun City homes.

ficers and members, who will meet Wednesday to make design and organizational decisions for the Sun City West historical room in the **Community Services Center.**

"We're looking for donations from the early (Sun City West) pioneers who might have the promotional plates, caps and brochures Webb gave away during its groundbreaking ceremonies," Goldstein said.

Like Webb's decision to build and expand Sun City West after its success with Sun City, the 220-member society (including 35 volunteers who maintain the house) is experiencing growing pains.

The Sun City West Community Services room will be a catch-all for the Sun City home's overflow, said Neil Bultman, Historical Society operations manager.

"We've run out of display space for all the stuff we have now. We'll be building some pullout stands and movable panels to conserve space in the new room," he said.

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33 years when Sun City was one big May 28. block boasting one- and twobedroom model homes selling for \$8,600 to \$12,000, a golf course. Oakmont Recreation Center and a swimming pool.

The small development south of Grand Avenue was a stone's throw from the area's rich cotton fields.

Although an estimated 400 visitors have toured the historical home since January, society members estimate thousands of Sun Citians have never set foot in the original Webb model and have little sense of the history of Sun City and the 15-year-old Sun City West.

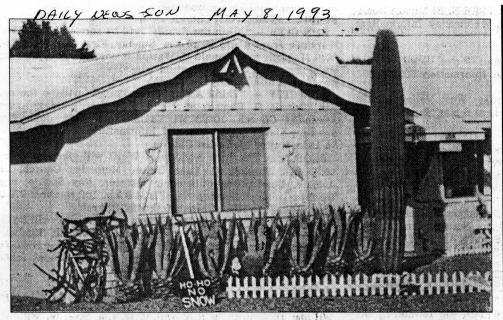
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> The seven-year-old Historical Society bought Del Webb's first model home in 1989 for \$44,000. said Glenn Sanberg, who along with Jane Freeman, helped found the society. "We've since spent about \$5,000 fixing it up and adding Del Webb's old sales office to the back of it." The price tag of the original golf course model in 1960 was \$9,000.

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Societies help preserve history Sun Cities, Youngtown clubs started fact-collecting early

By Lori Baker

Sun Cities and Youngtown residents are doing a good job keeping their history current, a historian says.

Although the retirement communities are not yet considered historic places, they have active historical societies.

"This is unique," said Reba Wells, a historian with the state historic preservation office. "Usually, people wait until it's hard to get the history. Things are scattered."

Wells spoke to Sun Cities Area Historical Society members May 12. They were commemorating National Historic Preservation Week, May 9-16.

To be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, a building must be at least 50 years old and meet other requirements.

• Youngtown buildings would be eligible around 2004.

Sun City, however, would have to wait about two decades. "It's important to stay current as we collect history," said Sanford Goldstein, president of the Sun

Goldstein, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, For example, volunteers have

collected oral history from Sun City pioneers. "We got their recollections on audio tape about their perceptions and knowledge of the area," Goldstein said.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society, which has 220 members, was started in October 1985.

The first house built in Sun City serves as the society's headquarters, where memorabilia, maps, photos and news clippings about the Sun Cities are kept.

The headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, is open from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. weekdays. Friday is the last day before the summer hiatus. The office will be closed June through August. "Many people in the United States don't think of us as having any history out here. They are not aware of our prehistoric inhabitants."

Reba Wells Historian

A satellite office in Sun City West opened last year and a public display is under construction at the Sun City West Community Services building. Original Sun City West residents who received a commemorative plate from Webb are being asked to donate them to the historical society.

The Youngtown Historical Society started in 1988. Residents recently completed a quilt commemorating the town's history. Self-guided tours are available of the clubhouse square, which has buildings dating to 1954.

Wells has done extensive historical research throughout Arizona.

"Many people in the United States don't think of us as having any history out here," Wells said. "They are not aware of our prehistoric inhabitants."

In 1540, the first European came up the Colorado River to Arizona, Wells said. "We're not really that young in

our history," she said. do no sets

Arizona has about 9,000 listings — such as churches, homes and public buildings — in the National Register of Historic Places. That includes the historic districts in Phoenix such as the Roosevelt and Encanto neighborhoods, which have hundreds of properties. To be eligible for the National Register, properties must be at least 50 years old, the buildings must not be significantly altered, and the properties must have historical significance. People who live in registered

People who live in registered historic buildings receive a 50 percent reduction in their property

tax name transfer restant menn

'Our Old House' to open

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is gearing up for its winter season at "Our Old House," the re tirement community's first model home.

The first model, which also serves as the society's headquarters, will be open for visitors Tuesday through Saturday beginning this week.

Visiting hours are 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the model, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

The first model home was built by Del Webb in 1960. It houses a variety of photographs and other memo rabilia chronicling the development of the Sun Cities.

On Oct. 1 the community's early residents, also known as the Sun City Pioneers, will be on hand at "Our Old House." In addition, pic tures of Sun Cities churches will be on displayed.

For information, call 974-2568.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Tuesday, Sept. 14, 1993

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Residents help record SC history

By ROSA De SIMONE Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Melanie Sturgeon may be too young to live in Sun City, but over the past two years she has lived and breathed the community.

8-25-93

Looking for a research topic for her doctoral thesis in community history, the Arizona State University graduate student said she could not find a better sample than Sun City.

One-on-one interviews with the pioneers of Sun City's active retirement community gave Sturgeon an opportunity to fulfill two goals: complete a thesis and help the Sun Cities Area Historical Society increase it resources.

"Oral history is extremely important for a community like Sun City," Sturgeon said.

Sturgeon has recorded about 35 conversations with many involved in the development and early years of Sun City, from the first residents here to the developer, Del Webb Corp.

"We have been trying to get an oral history program for several years, but I could never recruit someone to do it," said Jane Freeman of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Freeman and others at the society were eager to help Sturgeon with her research.

Sturgeon's fascination with history goes beyond Sun Citians. She's been hired by people to write their family histories.

The mother of five has a bachelor's degree in history, a master's in community history and has almost completed her doctorate in modern U.S. history with a focus on community history.

"Almost every person "Interviewed was really delightful, and they not only talked about Sun City but their early life."

Sturgeon learned some of the many characteristics that defined Sun City and its resi-See Graduate student, A5

*

Graduate student

-From A1

dents, she said. Among them:

■ "There's a perception that women in the 1920s, who live here now, stayed at home, but there were many who worked and had careers."

■ "There was cooperation and interaction in the early days of the community." *

■ "Women were much more involved in social service volunteerism than men." Male residents were more involved in political issues and groups, she said.

The theme of her study focused on the "Activity Theory of Retirement," a theory popular in the 1950s and used in the development of Sun City.

Not only did the people who moved here make the theory a reality, with their hard work ethic as well as their love for leisure activity (developed in the 1920s), but the developers played a major role.

"Del Webb made sure that it worked," Sturgeon said. "That's why Sun City is so interesting. It was really the first completely organized and planned retirement community (in the country)."

The early residents Sturgeon interviewed told her of the hard work they put in during the early days, to get clubs off the ground and keep the community active.

"The clubs were the life force of the community," she said.

Many of the Sun Citians, most of whom were women, expressed both nostalgia and sadness regarding what seems to be a decline in club activity and the demise of the close-knit community it produced, she said.

"A common theme (in the interviews) was sadness that it has changed from a small, interactive community to a large impersonal one," Sturgeon said.

Freeman, a long-time resident of Sun City, agreed that much has changed. Both women hope the taped interviews will educate new residents on the history of Sun City and motivate them to get more involved, they said.

"There was a fellowship that you don't have now," Freeman said.

The public is welcome to listen to the tapes in the Sun Cities Area Historical Society in the first house built in Sun City at 10801 Oakmont. For information and hours, call 974-2568.



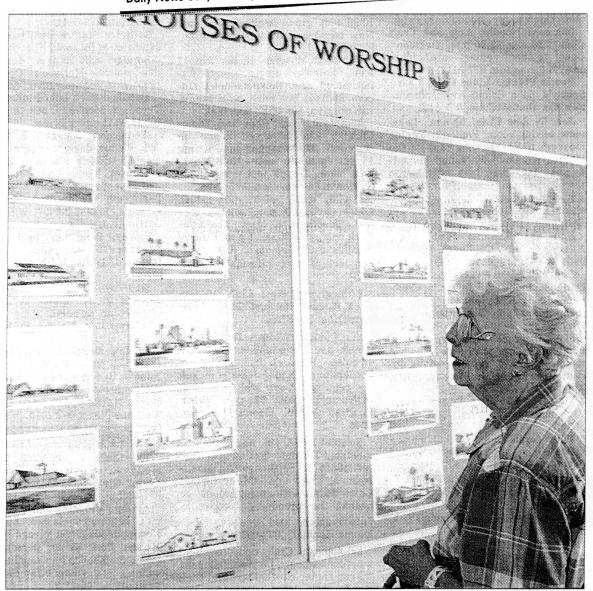
FRIDAY ··· OCTOBER 1, 1993 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NOON

at the

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY L 10801 OAKMONT AVENUE

· Visit with old friends . Sleet new friends: - See Sun City Stemorabilia

ENJOY OUR COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS for more information call. 974-2568 or Evelyn Parry --- 933-2698



Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Monday, Sept. 20, 1993

Stephen Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Laurel Cooke of Sun City studies the Houses of Worship display — which features watercolors by Emil Fischer — at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive. The society is housed inside Sun City's first model home. It is open from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, September to May.



Stephen Chernek/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.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Saturday, Oct. 2, 1993

Residents hail festival

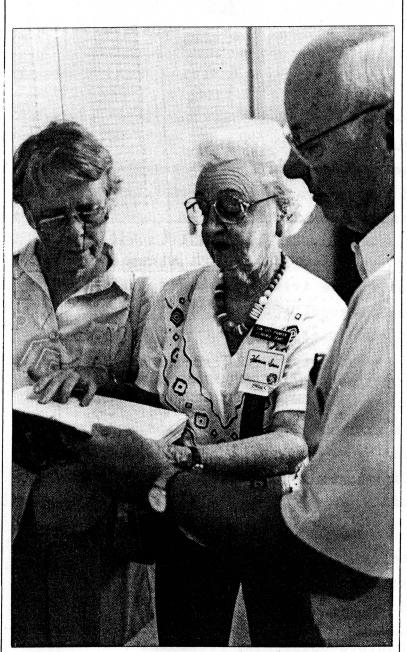
Reminiscing, not music, drew about a dozen Sun City pioneers to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society headquarters Friday. The pioneers — Sun City's first residents were honored at a tea in the retirement community's first model home.

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.



PAGE 10-SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT - OCTOBER 6-12, 1993

A look back at the old days

The Sun Cities Historical Society held a special salute to the community's earliest residents during last week's Old West Fest. Florence Sears, center, a Sun City Pioneer, reviews memorabilia at the society's headquarters with visitors Robert and Olga Adams. Mrs. Sears was the eighth homeowner to move into Sun City when it first opened in 1960.

SUN CITIES AREA



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 26, 1993

Dear Members:

The Board of Directors of Sun Cities Area Historical Society cordially invites you to attend the Annual Fall Membership Luncheon on Wednesday, November 10th at 12 Noon in Palmbrook Country Club at 9350 Greenway Road.

Dan Shilling, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Arizona Humanities Council will be our guest speaker. His timely topic: "Communities in Transition".

The cost of the luncheon is \$11 per person. Your check is your reservation to be received no later than November 8th and made payable to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. Please mail to the address below.

We look forward to greeting you and to sharing this interesting program with you.

Sincerely yours, unford to bredste

Sanford Goldstein, President 10801 Oakmont Dr. * Sun City, AZ 85351

Scholars dig into SC roots

By EVELYN BARBER Daily News-Sun columnist

The image of Sun City has remained much the same since its inception in 1960 and the Sun City lifestyle that has evolved is known the world over.

But this is not a static community; in fact, it is in a constant state of change, Arizona Humanities Council Director Dan Shilling said Wednesday, speaking at the annual fall meeting of the Sun Cities Historical Society.

Shilling described the council's "Communities in

Transition" project, which over two years will focus on the understanding of "community" in Arizona.

Sun City is one of 10 archetypal communities that will be part of the project. The 10 were chosen as representative of the five qualities that give Arizona its identity: agriculture, ethnic diversity, high technology, retirement and tourism.

"Sun City, of course, is an international symbol of the planned retirement community," said Shilling.

See Retirees come, A5

"To know history is to know where your ideas come from and why you happen to believe them, to know the source of your moral and aesthetic sensibilities."

Dan Shilling Arizona Humanities Council Director

SUER

Historical society meets

Dr. Dan Shilling, executive director of the Arizona Humanities Council, is the guest speaker for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's fall membership meeting Wednesday.

"Communities in Transition" is the topic of the luncheon, set for noon at Palmbrook Country Club, 9350 Greenway Road, Sun City.

Lunch is \$11 per person. Checks payable to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society may be mailed to the society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, 85351. Reservations are required by Monday.

For information, call 974-2568.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Thursday, Nov. 11, 1993 A5

Retirees come here to start over

JE -From A1

A team of five ASU scholars will work with community liaisons, Shilling said, "to research not only the history, but the ideas that underlie the development of the 10 sites" through oral history as well as research in each community.

The project will be concluded in early 1996 and a manuscript for publication will be completed before the summer of 1996.

Shilling cited the rootlessness of America's commulimities today, the loss of the mability to be a community, as contributing to a poverty of values and to the "collapse of the ritual, ethical and spirit-

ual practices that define a community."

History, he said, contributes directly to community building. "To know history is to know where your ideas come from and why you happen to believe them, to know the source of your moral and aesthetic sensibilities."

Just as Phoenix gets its name from the bird of myth, reborn from its ashes, so many people see their move to Arizona as a chance to start over, Shilling said.

"It is not only those who come searching for jobs that accompany a constantly increasing population; it is also those who retire to places like Sun City — retire, that is, to a

'new life.' "

Arizona cities, like the state itself, have gone through tremendous transitions in the last several decades in order to survive, Shilling said. And it is the "transitioning" the council project will focus on in the 10 communities.

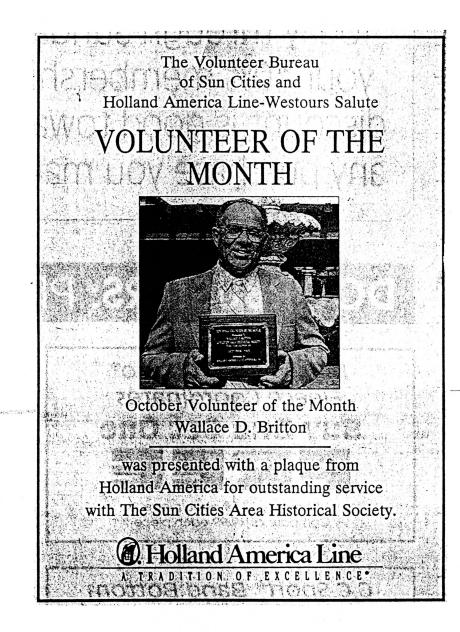
"Communities in Transition" began with the goal of addressing the concerns of community as a deliberative dialogue, not as a "debate" of public policy where participants square off with opposing views that never involve the kind of talk that leads to common ground.

"We are aware that our efforts should not duplicate town halls, city council meetings or similar models. Further, we are not a political or advocacy group, or an organization with answers. We have enough of them," Shilling said.

"Let us encourage open, community-grounded dialogue (rather than debate), dialogue that addresses modern America's tendency to obliterate tradition and make rootlessness a virtue. Let us, instead, reappropriate tradition and nurture the roots that strengthen a community's social ecology, that help ground and locate us in ways no map can."

Evelyn Barber is the former Editorial page editor of the Daily News-Sun.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Wednesday, Nov. 24, 1993





- OUR OLD HOUSE -FEBRUARY 19, 1994 B:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Sur Cities AREA Historical Society 10801 OAKMONT DRIVE Sur City, AZ 85351 (Next to Oakmont Recreational Center)

Appliances, Tools, Books, Disbes, Fuenture, Linens, Jewelry, KNIC-KNACS, PLANTS, Toys/GAMES



Refreshments Available

'TREASURES AND TRIVIA SALE' AT 'OUR OLD HOUSE' - 10801 OAKMONT FEBRUARY 19, 1994 8:AM - 1:00 PM

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society's "Our Old House" needs a new roof! We need your help to make this fund raiser a success. We will accept anything <u>BUT CLOTHES</u>. So start looking for items to donate. Sort out your jewelry, clean out your kitchen cupboards, bag up white elephants & unusable Xmas gifts, crafts & knick-knacks, tools & yard accessories, etc. If you need help in getting items to the sale, please call Rae Mason at 933-6970 or Julia Manspeaker at 977-5367. Or bring your items Friday afternoon, February 18, 1994, to 'Our Old House', 10801 Oakmont.

> Rae Mason, Julia Manspeaker Co-Chairmen

You do not need to price - we will do that!

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Friday, Feb. 18, 1994

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Treasures/Trivia Sale Saturday, Feb. 19th 8am to 1pm 10801 Oakmont Drive Something For Everyone!

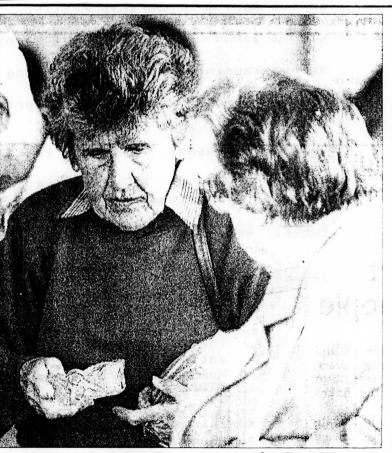
Society to meet

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will conduct its annual spring membership meeting at 1:30 p.m. April 13 in the Sun City West Community Services Center, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Dr. Noel J. Stowe, associate dean of Arizona State University's graduate school and director of the ASU's public history program, is the guest speaker. His topic is "The Past's Future."

For information, call 974-5349.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Thursday, April 7, 1994



Monday, Feb. 21, 1994 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Marge Liebeg, left, and Rae Mason examine a piece of glassware at the Sun Cities Historical Society's "Trivia and Treasures" garage sale Saturday. Proceeds went to the society.

SUN CITIES AREA



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YOU ARE INVITED

to our Spring Membership Meeting. Meet with friends and fellow members and hear an outstanding program celebrating Arizona Heritage Preservation Month - April 8 - 14.

- DATE: Wednesday, April 13, 1994
- TIME; 1:30 p.m. Refreshments and short business meeting.
- PLACE; Sun City West Community Service Center, 14465 R. H. Johnson Blvd.
- <u>SPEAKER;</u> DR. NOEL J. STOWE, Associate Dean of ASU Graduate College. His intriguing title is: "The Past's Future", tying in with the theme of National Horitage Preservation Month (May) "It's your Memory, It's our History, It's worth Saving."

We are expecting a good turnout and hoping some of our Sun City and Sun City West Pioneers will be present. Please invite a non-member friend to come with you.

Sun Cities Area Historical Society 10801 Oakmont Dr. Sun City, Az. 85351



Help give the past a future

By EVELYN BARBER

The past is all around us. and we need to preserve it.

That was the challenge to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society at its spring meeting in Sun City West.

Dr. Noel Stowe, Arizona State University history professor and author, presented his ideas for saving the past in a lecture. "The Future of the Past."

"We lose the past," he said. "We leave it to someone else or ignore it."

Citians remember the past; spots are still with us; the collect and save things from people of that culture are still the past; read books about with us – Arizona's 30 Indian history, see historical doc- tribes "are people of the here umentaries and visit muse- and now and that has nothing ums: think about history in a to do with slot machines," he serious way, share its experi- said. ence with others and urge them to actively preserve the past.

But there are obstacles to the recognition of the state's past, he said. Many Arizonans have come from older parts of the country. They do not re-



gard the state's historic buildings very highly and consider Arizona a relatively young state.

The ancient past is considered worthwhile but the connection with the present isn't He asked instead that Sun made. Those ancient historic

> The Hispanic heritage has come down across time as well, but we don't recognize the continuity, he said.

> "We need to preserve the past, care for it and link the past to the present in the

people around us who are connected to ancient times."

The past is selectively saved; much of it is ignored because we want the past to look better than it was, he added.

"It's nice when someone collects the past and presents it to us spic and span." he said, speaking of the many historic parks throughout the country such as Disney's proposed Civil War park at Manassas.

These theme parks represent history packaged neatly, conforming to the demands of entertainment, the glossy surface of events giving no evidence of the controversies that are part of history.

"The controversial things from the past are inconvenient and not always entertaining," he said. Some of history may be considered "commonplace or boring, but all of it is important."

Asked about such living history museums as Pioneer Park north of Phoenix and Williamsburg in Virginia, Dr.

Stowe responded that many people find them interesting and learn from them.

"My son thinks they're great," he said. "He enjoys them and he learns something from them."

Dr. Stowe believes, though, that while these museums present an idyllic picture of the past, they do not truly reflect the past because they omit history's hardships and the dangers that pioneers endured.

Dr. Stowe charged his listeners to respect the past, share its memories and common materials, be advocates for the preservation of historic sites and artifacts, videotape family history and honor friends and relatives of the past.

"The past is your heritage and my heritage," he said. And only by preserving the past today can we provide a link that will "give the past a future."

The writer is the retired editorial page editor of the Daily News-Sun.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Friday, April 22, 1994

Grant helps group nail down new roof

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — "This Old House," the Oakmont Drive home-turned headquarters for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, has a new roof, courtesy of some American heritage advocates.

The Palo Verde Chapter of the Questers, one of nearly 30 local groups that study and collect antiques and support museums, obtained a state historical grant and donated the money to the historical society for a new roof.

The rehabilitation, costing about \$3,000, began Friday under the direction of the Questers and Wally Britton, building maintenance supervisor for the historical society.

The society is housed in Sun City's first model home at 10801 Oakmont.

Mary Shanks, a member of Palo Verde Chapter 540 of the Questers, oversaw the chapter's grant application efforts on behalf of the histori-

cal society.

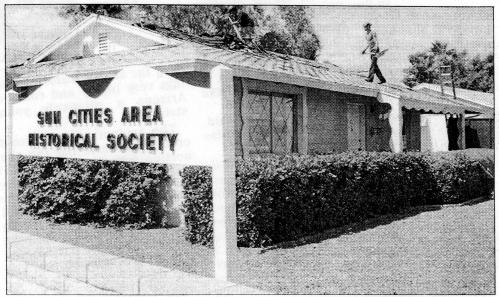
Restoration and preservation of historically significant places in local communities is a primary aim of the Questers International, Shanks said.

Questers members learned the local historical society's office needed a new roof via the society's newsletter and from interaction between Questers and society members.

Shanks led a Palo Verde Questers committee that met with society members and reviewed some of the needs.

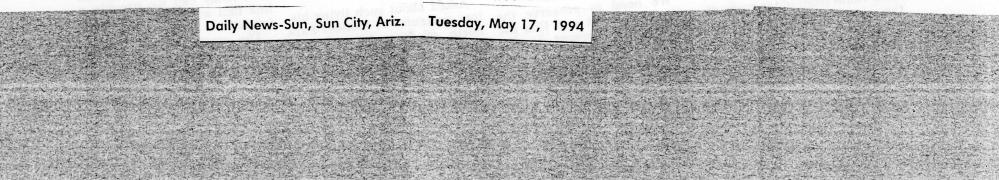
"We felt that it (the roof) was a very worthwhile project," Shanks said.

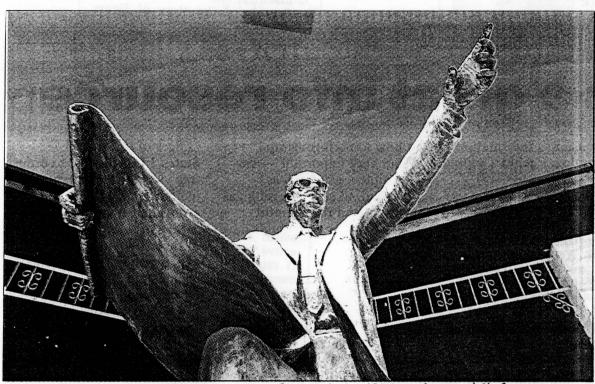
"We hope in the fall to create a larger interest with other Questers chapters and take care of other needs the historical society has," she said.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Workers remove the old roof from the Sun Cities Historical Society building on Oakmont Drive. The new roof was completed over the weekend.





A statue of Sun City founder Del Webb. FRI. MAY 20, 1994 AZREP. | PhrGAZETTE Adv. Supplement

Past and present

Historical Society guards past, guides future

he Sun Cities Area Historical Society (SCAHS) serves as a guardian of the past and a guide for future residents. Organized in 1986 by a small group of volunteers interested in the collection and preservation of historical data and memorabilia from the Sun Cities area, the Society now boasts a membership of more than 200.

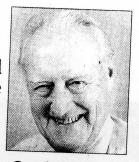
The Del E. Webb Development Company built its first Sun City home in 1959 at 10801 Oakmont Ave. The two-bedroom, one-bath home with porch and patio was named The Kenworth and was priced at \$8,500, including all improvements.

"Our Old House" now is the headquarters of the Sun Cities Historical Society where you'll find clippings and photographs of past events, the first telephone directories and more.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a non-profit tax-exempt organization. It relies solely on membership dues and contributions to meet its expenses.

The house is open from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, September through May. There is no admission charge.

Retired in style



Glenn Sanberg

Professors learn history from seniors

he school bells rang last week. We were in class, but the pedagogical positions were reversed — teachers became students and a couple of retirees did the lecturing.

About 100 area teachers taking Dr. Dick Booscher's course in Arizona history at Ottawa University toured Sun City as guests of The Ambassadors and took a look at what retired people were doing these days. They got an eye and an earful.

It was a great chance to work with Jane Freeman again. It's been nine years since we co-authored "Jubilee, The 25th Anniversary of Sun City" and it seemed like old times. A little planning and the workload was divided into equal parts. Jane handled the early dramatic history of the area, and I followed with the recent developments in Sun City.

This sent us both back to Jubilee in an exercise in nostalgia. We sometimes forget that the land we built our homes on was once scorned by Congress in 1888 when they accepted a report that "The region is altogether valueless. After entering it, there is nothing to do but to leave. ..."

It's so easy to forget about the people and the events that led up to Del Webb's courageous experiment in active retirement living. We forget about the three years of research that preceded the investment in 20,000 acres of ranch land with the Boswells. It was a long haul from the concept to the first steam shovel of earth turned at South Golf Course that started Sun City. Jane did a great job with the fascinating story of Sun City's prenatal care. The eager looks on the faces of the teachers belied the fact that she had struck a rich vein of historical ore.

They loved the story of Henry Wickenburg's discovery of gold in 1863 leading to the construction of "Vulture Road," the forerunner of Grand Avenue. They had never heard the story of Mr. Davie who gambled on raising sugar beets in the desert and lost, or the Goodyear scientists who thought they could substitute a sticky plant called yuli for rubber during World War II and discovered they were on the wrong track. None of this was in their history books.

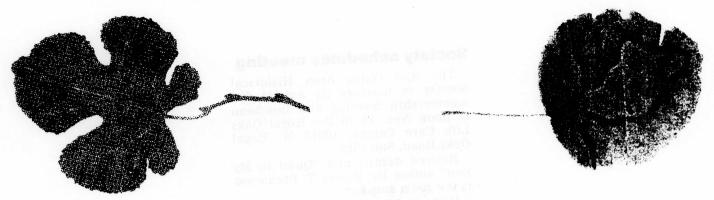
Sun City's formative years in which Del Webb's experiment in active retirement living was tested is really the story of the development of an incredible family — the early years in which new residents would be welcomed by neighbors bearing pans of freshly baked rolls, invitations to get-togethers, pot lucks and barbecues. As pioneers, they circled the wagons and developed an active lifestyle that was to be copied worldwide.

However, as Sun City grew in size, so did the problems. Like most families there were squabbles, some big, some small — incorporation, recreation centers fees, school taxes, opening golf courses to outsiders, recall elections. Historically, they can't be swept under the rug and must be revealed as part of the learning process of growing up.

It's a privilege to tell others about a community that specializes in extending middle age longer, not just tacking on a little bit of leisure to the retirement years. Sun City offers an exciting chance at a second career, going back to school, or perhaps even falling in love, again.

That's a pretty attractive ticket, even for professors.

Glenn Sanberg, who lives in Sun City, is retired from the American Society of Association Executives.



SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

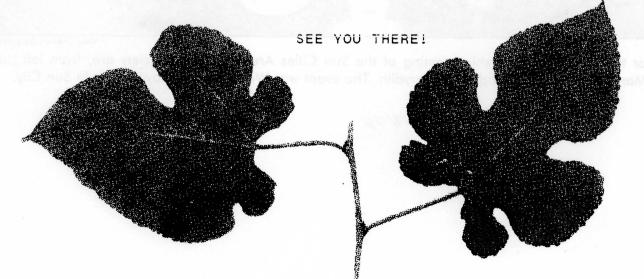
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

to the Fall Membership Luncheon and Meeting

- DATE;Wednesday, November 16, 1994PLACE;Royal Oaks (Garden Room)
11015 W Royal Oaks Dr., S. C.
(off 99th Ave., close to Grand)TIME;12 Noon, Luncheon followed by
Business meeting & reports
- PRICE; \$8.00 per person
- <u>SPEAKER;</u> Dr. Burley Packwood (Sun City author of "Quail in My Bed" and "Bird Turd, Peppers and Other Delights")

Please plan to come and enjoy fellowship with friends and fellow members and hear Dr. Packwood tell with humor of living with a "Quail in My Bed".

Your Reservation is your check for \$8.00 per person, made payable to SCAHS and sent to 10801 Oakmont Dr., Sun City, AZ., 85351 by November 11, 1994.



Society schedules meeting

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is hostings its annual fall membership meeting and luncheon at noon Nov. 16 in the Royal Oaks Life Care Center, 10015 W. Royal Oaks Road, Sun City.

Retired dentist and "Quail in My Bed" author Dr. Burley T. Packwood is the guest speaker.

Historical society members and their guests are invited. The cost is \$8 per person. Checks payable to the SCAHS should reach society headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, 85351, by Nov. 11.

For information, call 974-2568.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Saturday, Oct. 29, 1994



On hand for the annual membership meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society are, from left, Julia and Frank Manspeaker and Les and Reba Merydith. The event was Wednesday at Royal Oaks in Sun City.

Daily new bur 11/19/99

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT — JANUARY 18-24, 1995

Historical Society preserves signs of the times

By JAY STATLAND Sun Cities Independent

T he Suń Cities Area Historical Society has been collecting and conserving historical information on both Sun City and Sun City West since 1978.

The society, located at 10801 Oakmont Ave., Sun City, has been collecting everything within the realm of possibility related to the Sun Cities including old photographs, newspaper articles, maps and any other items of historical significance.

Jane Freeman and Glenn. Sanberg, authors of the book "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona," organized the Historical Society prior to writing the book. Since its inception, the society has enjoyed growth.

In 1989 it purchased the first model home built in Sun City and converted it into what is now a museum. The society added the original Del Webb sales office to its building in 1991.

Today, the former sales office houses photographs of the city's early history and the first sketches of model homes. The society has an interest in preserving present day items, too.

"Today is tomorrow's history," says society archivist Jane Freeman.

The society not only operates the museum, but also saves newspaper clippings, photographs and other memorabilia in an archive for public viewing.

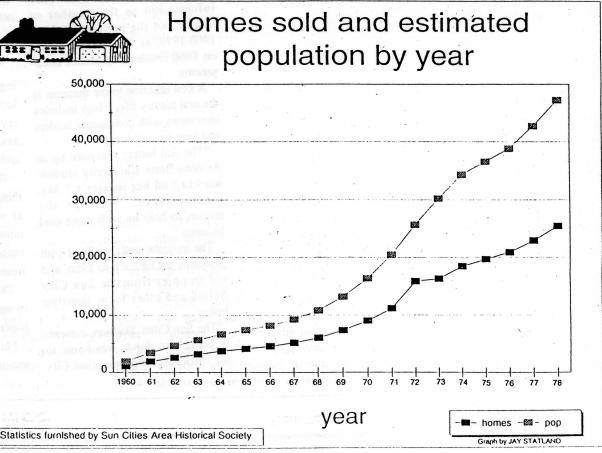
The photographs are among the most valuable items displayed.

"They are valuable because there is usually only one of them," Ms. Freeman says.

One such photograph depicts one of the first clubs in Sun City, the Agriculture Club. Some of its members were used in a national advertisement for Sun City.

In the organization's file is a

See TIMES, Page 8



TIMES

From Page 7

copy of what "I think is one of the first national articles," Ms. Freeman says, referring to a story that appeared in the November 1959 issue of *The Saturday Evening Post.*

The society's files store such information as the number of homes and the population from 1960-1979, as well as information on 1960 residents' previous occupations.

A new addition to the museum is the oral history file, which includes interviews with community leaders and long-time residents.

"The oral history was done by an Arizona State University student working on her master's," Ms. Freeman says. "We hope she returns to help us with more oral histories."

The museum walls are lined with postcards dating back to 1960, and old trophies from the Sun City Saints and other local sporting teams.

The Sun Cities Stadium, currently being torn down, was home to the Milwaukee Brewers, Sun City Saints and other local teams. The stadium also hosted an annual Fourth of July fireworks display.

In addition to gathering information about Sun City, the society is seeking information about Sun City West. Although Ms. Freeman and other residents worked diligently to collect information on Sun City, data on Sun City West is scarce.

"One of the problems in archiving all the material we have is a lack of volunteers," Ms. Freeman says. She has only one volunteer to assist her in organizing the archives.

The society is in need of several things this year including additional volunteers to help keep the museum open longer hours. The museum is open Tuesday-Friday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The society also needs volunteers to update its files with local newspaper clippings and obituaries.

For more information or to volunteer, call the society at 974-2568.

Sun Citians make history — again

By KATHLEEN WINSTEAD Sun Cities Independent

Delbert E. Webb may have come up with the concept of an active retirement community, but James G. Boswell is credited with making possible the only work in existence today which provides a historical perspective of Sun City.

Chapters in the book "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, "Arizona," examine the history of Sun City from its inception to 1985, focusing on Mr. Webb and the company he founded as well as Sun City's early years including its amenities, the residents, civic organizations, the arts, health care, volunteerism and other subjects.

"Mr. Boswell was the first big interview we had," says Glenn Sanberg, who with Jane Freeman co-authored the book "Jubilee."

Not only that, but Mr. Boswell helped the Sun Cities Area Historical Society obtain its current



Jane Freeman

headquarters.

"We went over and had a talk with Burt Freireich, (former ownerof) the News-Sun, and they gave us a room upstairs and I scrounged a card table and a couple of chairs and a filing cabinet and that was the beginning of the Historical Society," Mr. Sanberg says.

Mr. Sanberg and Ms. Freeman realized they couldn't operate the society out of the newspaper office forever and when the pair discovered the first model home in Sun City was for sale, it was like an answer to a prayer.

Although the home initially sold

for about \$8,500, the seller wanted \$54,000 for the residence.

"We finally got her down to (about) \$44,000 (or) \$45,000, but we didn't have that kind of money," Mr. Sanberg explains.

"Jim Boswell and his wife were coming to town so I invited him over to the Lakes Club. Jane Freeman and I had lunch with him and I was explaining this to him and the need to store all this material and right in the middle of this explanation, Jim Boswell stopped me and said, 'Stop right there. Why don't you let me do that (pay for it).' He was certainly very helpful."

Ms. Freeman says, "It was through the generosity of the James G. Boswell Foundation and the Del Webb Foundation and the Del Webb Corp. that we were able to purchase this model home. It was the first model home (ever) in Sun

See HISTORY, Page 8

HISTORY

City. It was the smallest and the least expensive" with two bed-rooms and only one bathroom.

Mr. Boswell's assistance and cooperation certainly made life easier for members of the Historical Society, but had it not been for Ms. Freeman, the society's archivist, the book may never have been written.

In the early 1980s, members of a group which met monthly to critique local newspapers and provide writers with story ideas began discussing the lack of a central location for newcomers and visitors to find information on the community.

"We don't have a chamber of commerce, we don't have a city council, we don't have a mayor. I said, 'We're coming up on the 25th anniversary; we need a history,'" says Ms. Freeman.

So in 1983, "Jane came to me (and) we decided that something had to be done about the recorded history," says Mr. Sanberg, who believes Ms. Freeman approached him to help with the history because he possessed well-developed writing skills. At the time he was producing a regular column for the Arizona Republic.

"We decided that the first thing

we should do is form an organization — the Historical Society," Mr. Sanberg says.

The newly-formed Sun Cities Area Historical Society held its first meeting in the community room of what was then First Federal Savings and Loan in the La Ronde Centre in spring 1984.

"We decided one of the prime projects had to be the compilation of the history," Mr. Sanberg explains.

"We compiled quite a lot of information. Then we decided this was a major project and I took a year off from writing the column; I decided to do some writing in Utah" where he and his wife traveled to each summer to escape the desert's unrelenting heat.

"So I started writing the history in Logan. Jane was doing the same thing down here. We went ahead then and completed the writing (which took) the better part of a year. We had this little office in the newspaper (building) and we transferred files from Jane's house.

"The purpose wasn't to make money. (But) there was never any regret."

Ms. Freeman and Mr. Sanberg

are quick to point out that they did not labor alone.

"There were a lot of people in the community who worked on it," Ms. Freeman explains. "Del Webb (Corp.) was cleaning house and we got a lot of records and photographs."

Looking back on the experience, Ms. Freeman says compiling the information and writing the book was more "fun" than work.

"It was kind of intriguing. It (compiling the history) was like a jigsaw puzzle, fitting the pieces in place."

Not only did the duo have files full of information, but they also conducted interviews, listened to tapes and collected newspaper articles as part of their research for the book.

"We went back and we interviewed people like the first manager of the Safeway store over here. People used to come over to the Safeway because it was like a social club," Mr. Sanberg notes. "We interviewed the first doctor, some of the merchants and people like Rev. (Walter) Witt who started Community Church," the area's first church, which is now known as United Church of Sun City.

"It was fascinating," says Mr. Sanberg.

The pair wrote the book not for profit but as a tribute to the community they love so much. In the process, their appreciation for the community increased tenfold.

While conducting research and writing the book, Mr. Sanberg observed "how people greeted newcomers and how cordial they were. Somebody would move into the neighborhood and the first thing you know somebody brought a pan of biscuits over. At the first shopping center, they used to have cookouts."

Ms. Freeman says if she had it to do all over again, she'd make a few changes in the book.

"Fools walk in where angels fear to tread," she comments, "but neither one of us had ever done anything like that before and I think we could have done a better job. There are some things we left out I wish we could have included. We made some mistakes, some typographical errors."

The book was published in 1984, and because only 10,000 copies were printed, only few are available for viewing at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and the Sun City Library.

Mr. Sanberg believes "Jubilee," published under the auspices of the Historical Society, is "the only history (of Sun City) that's been written."

Now that the community's 35th anniversary has arrived, do Mr. Sanberg and Ms. Freeman have any plans to update the book?

"Somebody else can do it," Ms. Freeman says. Mr. Sanberg echoes her sentiments but admits "an awful lot has happened since it was written."

From Page 7



Home on the ranch Long before Del Webb risked a fortune proving that older people could find happiness in a retirement community, others gambled fortunes developing the area.

According to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, R.P. Davie, a businessman from Marinette, Wis., tried to make a go of ranching between the Agua Fria River and the New River long before Webb founded the Sun Cities.

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. established a compound in the settlement of Marinette for its Southwest Cotton Co. and in 1936 sold the Marinette Ranch (20,000 acres) to the J.G. Boswell Co. This was to become Sun City.

The Arizona Republic/THE PHOENIX GAZETTE Wednesday, January 18, 1995

Historical Society Opens for Visitors

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is once again open for visitors. Hours will be Tuesday through Friday from 1:30—3:30 p.m. The Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City —the first model home built in 1959 and opened Jan. 1, 1960.

Persons interested in the early beginnings will find many items of interest such as pictures of Marinette (now Sun City), post card scenes from 1960 to the present, the first telephone directory and many other items of interest.

Residents and visitors are most welcome. Persons interested in volunteering as a host/hostess can call Phyllis Street: 584-0323.

Page B6 THE WESTER Jan. 19-25, 1995

ROOF DEDICATION

OPEN HOUSE

January 29, 1995 2 - 4 p.m.

Dedication of gift from Questers State Organization as a Preservation and Restoration Grant to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. This gift was a new roof for "Our Old House". Palo Verde Chapter led this drive for the grant.

Dedication at 2:30 p.m.

Welcome – SCAHS President Jim Hawks Introduction of Questers: Linda Starr, State President

Donna Collins - Chairman of Preservation

& Restoration

First Steps to SCAHS - Jane Freeman, Archives Chairma History of "Our Old House" - Wally Britton, Bldg. Ch. DEDICATION - Jim Hawks

Hostesses (designated by name tags, with flower) will be glad to show you the various rooms.

Open House Committee: Jim Hawks, Phyllis Street, Julia Manspeaker, Jane Freeman, Rae Mason, Al Foster

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

10801 Oakmont Dr.

Sun City, Az 85351

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Historical Society seeks TV, VCR

One of the best kept secrets in Sun City is our Sun Cities Area Historical Society museum, which is housed in the first house built by Del E. Webb Development Co. in Sun City in 1960. This house (museum) is at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, right next door to Oakmont Recreation Center.

Among the historical items stored at this museum is a library of video tapes dating back to 1960. However, the very small televison and videocasette recorder the society owns have been out of order for some time. The condition of the set is such that it is deemed not worth fixing and funds so limited that the board of directors will not authorize buying a new set.

The hostesses would very much like to play the historical tapes for visitors during the hours they are on duty. If anyone out there in this big-hearted city has an extra VCR and TV set they could loan or donate, it would be very much appreciated. The society's telephone number is 974-2568.

1/15/95 news Suy

Albert Foster Sun City

History buffs take note

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is opening again for visitors.

Hours are 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

The Historical Society is housed at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City. The house is Sun City's first model home, which was built in 1959 and opened Jan. 1, 1960.

Items of interest include pictures of Marinette, farm community on which Sun City was built, postcard scenes of the retirement community from 1960 to the present and the community's first telephone directory.

The Historical Society is looking for volunteer hosts and hostesses. For information, call Phyllis Street, 584-0323.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1995



Phyllis Street, right, conducts a tour for Sun Citian Maybelle D'Arcy at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society on Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Monday, Jan. 23, 1995

Museum seeks local assistance

One of the best kept secrets in Sun City is our Sun Cities Area Historical Society museum which is housed in the first house built by Del Webb in Sun City in 1960.

This house (museum) is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, next door to the Oakmont Recreation Cemter.

The living room, kitchen, master bedroom and bathroom have been kept up as originally built. The part that was originally a patio has been enclosed and extended completely across the back of the house to accommodate a meeting room and office.

One purpose for writing about our old house is to let our friends know that this delightful little museum is open to the public from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays through May, or by

appointment. Independent 1/25/95

Group plans fund-raiser

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is having a garage sale Feb. 11 to raise money for the society's museum.

The sale is set for 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the museum, which was the site of Sun City's first model home, 10801 Oakmont Drive.

Clothing, jewelry, crafts, books linens, games and tools will be

among the items for sale. For information, call 933-6970, or

977-5367.

Among the historical items stored at this museum is a library of videotapes dating back to 1960. The small TV and VCR the society owns, however, have been broken for some time. The condition of the set is such that it is deemed not worth fixing and funds are so limited the board of directors will not authorize buying a new one.

The hostesses would very much like to play the historical tapes for visitors during the hours they are on duty. If anyone out there in this bighearted city has an extra VCR and TV set they could loan or donate, it would be very much apprecited.

For more information, call 974-2568.

Stationard in gameb Sun City

Garage sale aids museum

The Sun Cities Historical Society's "Trivia and Treasures" garage sale is from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the society's museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Proceeds of the sale will be used to make repairs to the museum, which is Sun City's first model home. For information call 933-6970

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Friday, Feb. 10, 1995

PAGE 2 — SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT — FEBRUARY 8-14, 1995

COMMUNITY NEWS

Garage sale to benefit historical society

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold its annual fund-raising garage sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 11 at the society's museum and headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Ave., Sun City.

The sale will feature such items as clothing, jewelry, crafts, books and tools. Proceeds from the sale will be used by the museum to purchase necessary equipment and supplies. Call 977-5367 or 933-6970.

Gifts boost historical society

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is indebted to and wishes to thank all those members and others who contributed items for our trivia and treasure sale.

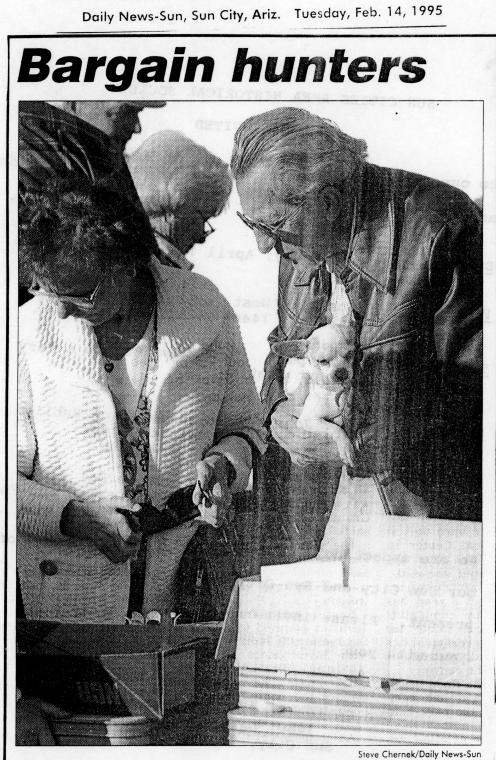
The things brought to our museum at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive were grabbed up by those citizens who participated in the beehive of activity at "Our Old House" on a recent Saturday morning.

Because of the community's generosity, we were able to raise more than \$600 to add to our austere budget, which will enable us to continue to preserve and exhibit the story of Sun City for all to see.

The Society's museum is the show place for the first active retirement community and the story of those pioneers whose dream has become the model for retirement living.

> James Hawks, president Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Sat., Feb. 18 and Sun., Feb. 19, 1995 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.



Ray and Joan Titus and their dog Nina, of Youngtown, search for bargains during the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's fund-raising garage sale Saturday.



SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

YOU ARE INVITED

to our Spring Membership Meeting. Meet with friends and fellow members and hear an outstanding program.

DATE:

Thursday Wednesday, April 13, 1995

PLACE: Sun City West Community Service Center, 14465 R. H. Johnson Blvd.

TIME:

1:30 pm. Refreshments and a very short meeting.

<u>SPEAKER:</u> Mr. John Waldon, Manager of Public and Community Relations for the Del Webb Corporation.

> Mr. Waldon will speak on Del Webb Corporation - Past - Present and Future.

We are expecting a good turnout and hoping some of our Sun City and Sun City West Pioneers will be present. Please invite a non-member friend to come with you.

> Sun Cities Area Historical Society 10801 Oakmont Dr. Sun City, AZ. 85351



Area Historian is Named Volunteer of the Month

By Rulon Booth

James (Jim) Hawks, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, was named August Volunteer of the Month for his over seven years of work by Ms. Diana Dorman of Holland America Line, Westours, Inc. Ceremonies were held at Loperchio's with Ms. Janet Henningsen, the Volunteer Bureau executive director, in attendance. Hawks contributes about 30 hours a month to compiling history of the Sun Cities with photographs and memorabilia going back to the early 1960s.



Diana Dorman of Holland American Line presents James Hawks his Volunteer of the Month plaque for outstanding service to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. the Sun Cities, he is, an avid "rock hound" and follows happenings at Luke AFB. Hawks and his wife, Kathleen, have four children and eight grandchildren to fill any other spare time.

When not doing the history of

Photo, Rulon Booth

Sept. 21-27, 1995 THE WESTER Page 3



CINA ION FORMULTURE Webb Corp. donates to museum

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society thanks the Del Webb Corp. for its generous donation to our operating fund. This neighborly gesture has helped us meet the expenses of maintaining our little museum where the story of Sun City is on display Police Derroad

When Del Webb's dream of an active, vibrant, retirement community started to come true in 1960, we Sun Citians who became a part of the movement soon realized that we were in

on something special. . . . or below storeach, to based on T. We in the Historical Society feel that we are fortunate to have had this opportunity and that others should be told about it. The organization that started it apparently agrees, and we thank them for helping us tell the story, monteeoeas doerog Our museum housed in this first house built in Sun City, is at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive. It has been closed for the summer, but will be open to the public starting Sept. 15, Tuesdays through Fridays, 1:30 to 3:80 p.m. at the line work in work

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Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Sat., Sept. 2 and Sun., Sept. 3, 1995

THE WESTER

Sept. 24 - Oct. 4, 1995

Editor:

Recently the Sun Cities Area Historical Society stated publicly that it had video tapes of historical material to show visitors who come to our museum, but we had no equipment with which to show them.

We are happy to report that we now have a new television and VCR in our museum, courtesy of Denny's TV and Appliance, and take this opportunity to thank these public-spirited people for providing us with the use of this equipment.

We also had offers from a few Sun City and Sun City West residents who responded to our plea and we thank them for their willingness to help.

Our museum, housed in the first house built in Sun City at 10801 Oakmont Drive, is open to the public 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

James W. Hawks, president

Webb Corp. a state The Sun Cities Area Historical Society thanks the Del Webb Corp. for its generous donation to our operating fund, This neighborly gesture has helped us meet the expenses of maintaining our little museum where the story of Sun City is on display, is of baraction When Del Webb's dream of an active, vibrant retirement community started to come true in 1960, we Sun Citians who became a part of the movement soon realized that we were in on something special. We in the Historical Society feel. we are fortunate to have had this opportunity and that others should be told about it. The organization that started it apparently agrees and we thank them for helping us tell

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

Kudos to Del

Our museum, housed in the first the story. house built in Sun City, is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive. It has been closed for the summer and will be open to the public starting Sept. 15, Tuesdays through Fridays, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

James W. Hawks, president Sun Cities Area Historical Society

'They say it adds 10 years to your life' Sun City lifestyle celebrates 35 years

By Marla Dial

The Associated Press

In 1960, few people were sure the Sun City idea would work.

Popular theory had it that retired people would never move away from their families and friends to live in a community exclusively for senior citizens.

The memory brings a slight grin to Jane Freeman's face.

Sun City not only is celebrating its 35th anniversary in January, it is the model for a growing number of retirement communities:

Freeman, a volunteer at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and co-author of a book written for the city's 25th anniversary, knows what makes the concept work.

"People stay active out here," she said, flipping through a directory that lists reams of recreation opportunities. "I think that's why we have a tendency to live longer."

This Del Webb Corp. development about 10 miles west of Phoenix wasn't quite the first of its sort, Freeman said.

Elmer Johns, a builder from Lakewood, Calif., developed nearby Youngtown in 1954, but the project

RETIREMENT CITIES' PROFILES

Facts about Sun Cities, with the
year construction began on each:(1992)Sun City (1960)Population:Population:46,000.Homes:26,000.Recreation centers:seven.Golf courses:ten 18-hole, one9-hole.Sun

Sun City West (1978) Population: 24,000 Homes: 13.436 Recreation centers: four. Golf courses: eight 18-hole. Sun City Tucson (1987) Population: 3,526 Homes: 1.793 Recreation centers: two. Golf courses: one 18-hole. Sun City Las Vegas (1988) Population: 8,000 Homes: 4.372 Recreation centers: three. Golf courses: two 18-hole. Sun City Palm Springs, (1992) Population: 1,000 Homes: 654 Recreation centers: one, one planned. Golf courses: one 18-hole golf course, one planned. Sun City Roseville, Calif.

(1994) Population: projected 6,000 Homes: projected 3,500 Recreation centers: one

planned. Golf courses: one planned. Sun City Hilton Head, S.C. (1994)

Population: projected 15,000 Homes: projected 8,000 Recreation centers: one "recreation campus" planned. Golf courses: three 18-hole golf

courses planned. Source: Del Webb Corp.

ound. and chief executive officer. e the Dion said Webb and his colleagues atten- improved on the idea by building golf

improved on the idea by building golf courses and shopping centers to attract residents before the first homes were sold. "Del Webb did a marvelous job when he planned this out," said Ann Rose Hering, who moved to Sun City three years ago from Illinois. "He was way ahead of his time."

Sun City's wide streets, lined with orange trees, bear witness to that planning. It is difficult to find a thing out of place on either the immaculate, curving thoroughfares or the allweather, low-maintenance yards filled with rocks, saguaros and palm trees.

Everything here is tailored for convenience.

"It's utopia," said Hering, who stopped to chat with friends at the Sundial Recreation Center before heading to a water-aerobics class. "There's not one thing that has been left out."

At Sundial, one of seven multimillion-dollar recreation centers, residents can participate in everything from swimming and weight training to sewing, ceramics or art classes. The building also houses a mineral museum, photo lab and shuffleboard facilities.

"You can do as little as you want

- See SUN CITY Dage Do

never really got off the ground. Freeman believes it is because the developers didn't pay enough attention to recreation.

"It didn't provide a lifestyle,"

agreed Phil Dion, Del Webb chairman

Sun City 'utopia' celebrates 35th anniversary

,— SUN CITY, from page B1

to, you can do as much as you want to," said Louise Meyer, who moved to Sun City in 1971.

"That's the life here. It keeps us moving, keeps us young."

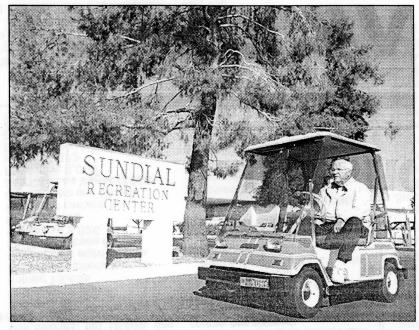
Del Webb officials say they market a lifestyle as well as homes. The idea is increasing in popularity but proved intriguing even in 1960, when more than 100,000 people visited Sun City within three days of its opening.

"It was a massive traffic jam. Mr. Webb couldn't even get there for the grand opening," Dion said.

The corporation sold 1,050 homes that year at prices around \$8,500. A simple, 660-square-foot home of pink cinder block on Oakmont Drive was the first to be occupied. It now houses the historical-society facilities.

Today, Sun City has about 45,000 residents, and 25,000 live in Sun City West, which opened in 1978. Beginning prices for typical ranch-style homes are about \$100,000.

Since 1987, Del Webb Corp. has opened additional Sun Cities in Tucson; Las Vegas; Palm Springs and Roseville, Calif.; and Hilton Head, S.C. The company has plans to break ground in Georgetown, Texas, by



T.J. Sokol/The Associated Press

Golf carts — like the one Jim Gramlich is driving — remain the vehicle of choice of many residents in Sun City. The retiree mecca turns 35 this month.

mid-1995.

The "active adult" communities are proving to be lucrative business. Del Webb's profit for the year that ended June 30 was \$17 million on revenue of \$510 million. Corporate officials say 80 percent of the money came from Sun City operations.

The aging of the population triggered industry growth in the 1980s. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 31.8 million Americans were 65 or older in 1991, and the number will grow to 56.6 million by 2010.

Officials also say Americans are retiring sooner, living longer and acquiring more wealth.

Del Webb capitalizes on such demographics to market the Sun cities, which are off-limits to residents younger than 18. At least one household member must be 55 or older to purchase a home.

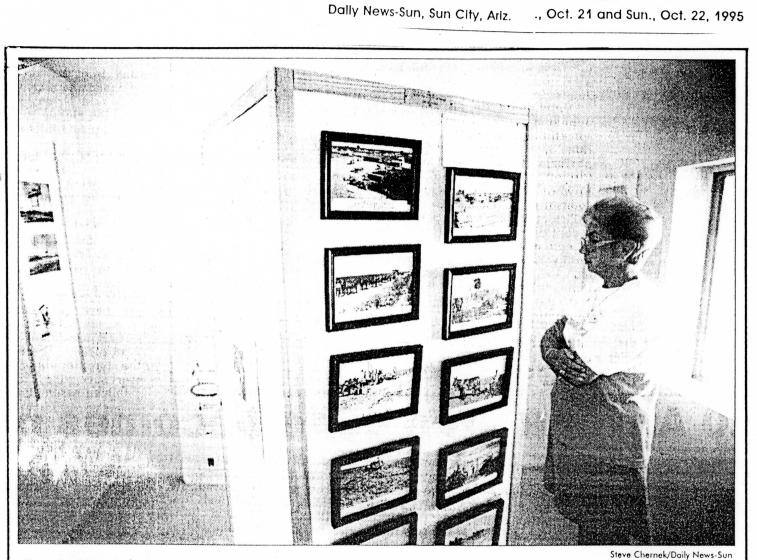
Children may stay with residents for a maximum of one or two years, Freeman said, and then only after the guardians obtain legal approval.

"On one hand, I think it's kind of cruel," she said, "but if you open it up, it's no longer a retirement community."

Yet Hering said the community does not lack the sound of children's voices, particularly during holiday periods.

Many residents say they are too occupied to miss the cross section of society they left behind in such places as Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois.

"I'm racing into the sunset, but when the end comes, I won't even know it, because I'm keeping so busy," said Fern Overlook, a Sun City resident since 1986. "They say it adds 10 years to your life."



Grace Nix, a volunteer at the Sun Cities Historical Society, examines photos in the room that was the Del Webb Company's original sales office, at the society's headquarters in the first Sun City model home, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.



Grace Nix, a volunteer at the Sun Cities Historical Society, examines photos in the room that was the Del Webb Company's original sales office, at the society's headquarters in the first Sun City model home, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.

1st SC home becomes community museum

By MICHAEL P. HEGARTY and IAN MITCHELL Staff writers

SUN CITY — The first home built in this retirement community now houses the history of the nation's first and largest active retirement community.

The two-bedroom cream-colored masonry home at 10801 Oakmont Drive serves as the museum for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

From 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. every Tuesday through Friday, visitors are encouraged to take a nostalgic tour through Sun City's first home, with its original pink-tiled kitchen and bathroom and period decor.

"The purpose of the house is like stepping back in time," said James Hawks, president of the historical society. "We can't show the home that was originally presented, if it isn't a home.

"We make available the house that was shown to people who came on Jan. 1, 1960."

During the grand opening holiday weekend, more than 100,000 people drove the six miles from Peoria through the cotton fields to the site. The home, one of five models built for the opening, sold for \$8,500. Air conditioning was an extra \$600 for the 697-square-foot home that includes a carport and outside storage area. "I wish I would have bought a dozen of them," Hawks joked.

In 1989, the historical society paid \$41,500 for the home, and "we got a little bit of help from the owner," Hawks said. The historical society is funded entirely by donations and dues from its 200 members.

Each year, about 500 visitors walk through the home, looking at the historical photographs and maps on the walls displaying the growth of Sun City, a literary history of the area and an obituary and newspaper clip file that is updated daily.

The house also stores and displays Sun City West historical artifacts, Hawks said. The society is continuously accepting donated items, he added.

"Anybody can throw it away, so

why don't you give us a chance?" Hawks urged. "We take just about anything that is related to the real estate where Sun City is now located."

take items that can be filed, not objects. "We have boxes and files and drawers full of materials," he said.

The wealth of information attracts attention.

"It's not like a McDonald's, but we get lots of inquiries," from students doing research on retirement communities and local groups who want to learn about their history, Hawks said.

The society takes its show on the road to educate more people about Sun Cities history.

"If people don't come in, we'll go to them," Hawks said.

Society members are available to speak to local clubs and organizations, he said. The presentations can be tailored to the interest of the audience and focus on a particular aspect of the area's past, such as athletic, business or residential history.

Hawks said the society is seeking more volunteers to staff the house and people willing to serve on its 15-member board of directors.

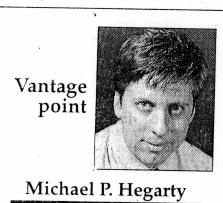
It's difficult to find volunteers, he said. "People are very busy out there."

For information on the house or the historical society, call Hawks at 933-2979.

Hawks said the society can only 93

SEE opposite page

Daily News-Sun



Dane gains insight from Sun Cities

Stepping into the Sun Cities was like walking through a time machine for Max Peterson.

"It's the American tradition of building communities," said the Danish socio-anthropologist who spent three weeks studying the retirement communities through a grant by the Danish university for a non-profit report.

"It's an effort to create a Utopia without the conflicts of the nasty points of society."

Sure, there is squabbling among Sun City and Sun City West residents, and crime has crept into the retirement communities, but, Peterson noted, the Sun Cities are free of most of the dangers that lurk outside their walls among intergenerational areas.

The Sun Cities reminded Peterson of a subdivision from the 1950s, which is logical since most of its residents grew up in that comparatively carefree, innocent era.

Unfortunately, it's a time that has been replaced by violence and economic uncertainty.

"We live in a dynamic, unfriendly time," Peterson said. "It's logical for them to come together. The people agree on a lot of things. They grew up in the same time and have the same points of view and experiences."

1

Even though Peterson is just in his 30s, he felt at home in the retirement communities.

"The Sun Cities functions like a small Scandinavia," he said. "I like that. That's the very good part about it."

He found many positives about the retirement communities to include in his report as Denmark is beginning to focus its attention on its aging population. The elderly in Denmark either

live at home with their family or in a nursing home. It doesn't have any retirement communities, although all of its residents are guaranteed services, such as nursing home care, regardless of their income.

"In Denmark, there's a notion the senior communities have to be very small," said Peterson, who discovered through the Sun Cities that "big is beautiful, too. There's lots of advantages to having a big community."

Peterson observed a vitality to the Sun Cities that he contributes to its size.

utes to its size. "It's a more dynamic society where people try to do more," he said. "They press themselves. They do things they might not have done before and it's possible because it's a big community."

A large community offers people a wide array of options for leisure and activities.

"This is a big place where you can find a club or organization that appeals to you," said Peterson, noting the opportunities that were missing from the smaller places he visited in Napa, Calif., before coming to Arizona.

The Sun Cities also offers an unlimited number of volunteer opportunities, which really impressed Peterson.

"It's completely un-Danish," he said. "I find it very sympathetic that the community comes together." The cohesiveness of the residents was another asset he discovered.

"Since it's only for seniors, the whole community is geared to serve the needs of seniors," said Peterson, who hopes to return to the area in the spring to expand on his research.

"It's a good concept for senior cities. The people seem extremely happy living here."

Staff Writer Mike Hegarty's column is published Tuesdays on the Community page. He may be reached at 876-2514.







SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

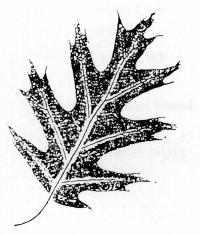
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

To the Fall Membership Luncheon and Meeting -

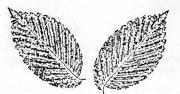
- DATE: Wednesday, November 15, 1995
- PLACE: Royal Oaks (Garden Room) 10015 W. Royal Oaks Dr., S.C. (off 99th Ave., close to Grand)
- TIME: 12 Noon, Luncheon followed by a brief business meeting.
- PRICE: \$9.00 per person
- SPEAKER: Dr. Wally Steffan, new Director of the Sun Cities Art Museum.

Please plan to come and enjoy fellowship with friends and fellow members and hear Dr. Steffan tell about the history of the Art Museum in relationship to the history of the Sun Cities. Please feel free to bring a guest.

Your reservation is your check for \$9.00 per person, made payable to SCAHS and sent to 10801 Oakmont Dr., Sun City, AZ., 85351 by November 10, 1995.



SEE YOU THERE!





"Our Old House"

o you know why the newest Recreation Center in Sun City is named Marinette? Or why Sun City West was once known as Lizard Acres?

You can find the answers to these and other questions by visiting "Our Old House," the museum and headquarters of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Avenue in Sun City, any afternoon Tuesdays through Saturdays, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., from October through May.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society was founded in 1985, the year Sun City celebrated its 25th Anniversary. It is a non-profit corporation, supported solely by membership dues and contributions, whose purpose is to collect and preserve the historical data of the Sun Cities area. "Our Old House" is the first model home built in the Sun Cities area. It was a two-bedroom, one-bath model, with an attached carport and utility room, that sold in 1950 for \$8,500. An extra bedroom and Arizona room were added later. The first occupants of the house were John G. and Chloe McDonald.

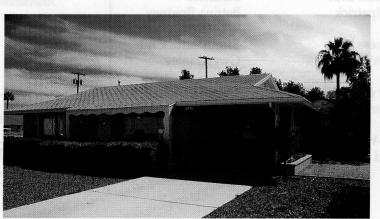
the buildings, but people make the community. Together we can realize a way of life unprecedented in America." It was signed "Del E. Webb, President."

Through the generous support of the J. G. Boswell Foundation, the Webb Corporation, and individual members of the Society, the SCHAS acquired the house and added the original sales office of the Del E. Webb Development Company to the building.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society's headquarters and museum was opened to the public with an open house and ribbon cutting on January 15, 1990. Here can be found memorabilia that portray important events in the community during the past 14 years and the people who made them happen.

The Society welcomes new members and offers volunteers an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities. For further information, phone (602) 974-2568.

In the first newsletter, The Webb Spinner, the tone for the community was set by this quotation: "Concrete, steel and lumber can make



1995

TRIVIA AND TREASURES SALE

at

OUR OLD HOUSE 10801 OAKMONT DR SUN CITY

Feb 17 8:00 am - 1:00 PM

Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Handweavers mark silver anniversary

The Sun City Handweavers and Spinners Guild celebrates its 25th anniversary next week with four days of demonstrations and displays at the Sun Cities Historical Society museum, 10810 Oakmont Road, Sun City.

Activities are scheduled 1:30-4 p.m. Nov. 7-10. Demonstrations include woven lace Nov. 7, tapestry on Nov. 8; spinning on Nov. 9; specialty weaving on Nov. 10.

Displays include a variety of hand-woven or hand-spun clothing, household items and memorabilia.

IF YOU GO

Arizona Historical Society Museum grand opening WHEN: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. WHERE: 1300 N. College Ave., Tempe. ADMISSION: Free. Call 929-0292 for regular museum hours.

Family History Center opens in SC

The new Peoria/Sun City Family History Center presents a class on "Scandinavian Basic Research," 7 p.m. Nov. 8.

The class, taught by E.J. Johnson, will be held at the Sun Cities Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City. Admission is free and reservations are not needed.

PAGE 2-SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT - NOVEMBER 8-14, 1995

The center provides computers, research books, microfilm and microfiche readers and genealogy records on loan from the LDS Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. Call 974-2749.



YOUR SUN CITY AREAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This Society is organized as a non-profit corporation exclusively for civic and educational purposes. Its task is to collect and preservethe historical data of the Sun Cities area. Much ofthis information has already been collected but much remains to be located and preserved. The Sun Cities are now considered one of the most important gerontological laboratories in the world. Preservation of this vast storehouse of information is of monumental importance. The Society was incorporated in 1986 . The "Old House" was purchased in May of 1989 and the Society moved in in June of 1990.

Rae Mason

The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Committee

Dorothy Gordon, Pat Hibbard, Hazel Hildebrand, Donna Lightley, Ann Szumowski, Joanne Wasielewski Fashion Show Coordinator: Ginny Beck

DEMONSTRATIONS DISPLAYS

SPINNERS GUILD

AND

November 7th - 10th 1995 Sun Cities Area Historical Society's "Old House"

CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

November 14,1995 - 11:30 am. Sun City Country Club

WELCOME

Sun City Handweavers and Spinners would like to thank you for coming to the anniversary of our guild. It has been 25 years since we received a charter from the Recreation Centers of Sun City. During this time our membership has grown. The roster of these many years reads like a who's who in weaving in Sun City. Some of our members brought a wealth of weaving and spinning knowledge withthem when they moved to Sun City . Other members were able to learn this craft from our own members. Over the years we have been host to experienced weavers from all over the country who come to teach us their special knowledge of this art of weaving and /or spinning.

We all thank you for coming to this celebration.

Amanda Mitchell President

TUESDAY: NOVEMBER 7TH

LACE DEMONSTRATIONS HELEN IRWIN - KNIT LACE LOUISE LOVETT - LACE WOVEN ON AN EIGHT HARNESS LOOM.

WEDNESDAY: NOVEMBER 8TH

TAPESTRY DEMONSTRATIONS MARGARET BENDER - PRACTICAL PROJECTS ON A TABLE LOOM. JOANNE MCCAULEY - NAVAJO WEAVING

THURSDAY : NOVEMBER 9TH

SPINNING "OUR OWN SHEEP TO SHAWL"

FRIDAY: NOVEMBER 10TH

SMALL LOOM DEMONSTRATIONS CATHERINE GRIFFIN - INKLE LOOM GINNY HAMBEL - FRAME LOOM

DISPLAYS:

HANDWOVEN AND HANDSPUN ITEMS MADE BY GUILD MEMBERS FROM 1970-1995.

EXHIBITS:

HISTORY, PRESIDENTS' COMMENTS AND TEACHERS THROUGH THE YEARS. **Company comes to** rescue of museu By JAMES W. HAWKS

When hostess Edna Ploeser of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society opened our little museum for public My view business on Sept. 22, one of the summer's hottest days, her first concern was the temperature. But after setting the ther-

mostat to the desired level and getting nothing but hot air, she called for help. A service man soon told us that the air conditioner that had cooled the building through 35 Arizona summers had finally worn out.

While we were locating a large fan to help temporarily, budget to collect and display and investigating the cost of a mementos of the Sun Cities replacement unit, word of our predicament somehow got to ing "Our Old House" com-Goettl Air Conditioning Inc. of fortable for workers and Phoenix, which had installed the original unit in 1959. (This building, which is now our museum, was the first residence that the Del Webb Co. Society.

Dally News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Thursday, Nov. 9, 1995

built in Sun City, located at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.) The Goettl representatives didn't hesitate. On Oct. 3, they not only replaced the faithful 35-year old air conditioner with a new, more efficient model, they also replaced the gas furnace that warms the place in winter, with a new, more efficient furnace - all at no cost to the society. Thus, this company that had played a significant role in building Sun City by installing thousands of air conditioners, furnaces and heat pumps, is now helping us continue to tell the Sun City story. VI MAL MARCHAR

We can now use our austere without worrying about keepguests. DUL off. The Dencon The writer is president of the Sun Cities Area Historical add to Hedman

Independent 10-17-95 Historical Society grateful for support

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society publicly thanks the Sun City Community Fund for its generous donation. 12 To all Sun Citians who support the Community Fund, your gift wil help the society in collecting, organizing, preserving and displaying materials about how Sun City got started and what has made it the finest retirement community in the country.

We believe all Sun Citians are blessed to have been a part of this movement and that it is worthwhile to tell others about it. Your dona-

tion helps us do that.

Mementos of the Sun City story are on display in our little museum, the first house built in Sun City in 1960, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive. It is open to the public Tuesdays through Fridays, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

James W. Hawks President, Sun Cities Area Historical Society N. M. Charles

Community fund aids museum

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> James W. Hawks President Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Sat., Oct. 14 and Sun., Oct. 15, 1995

DESERVING OF PRAISE Lidypendent 9-26-95

Local business lends Historical Society a hand

Recently the Sun Cities Area Historical Society stated publicly that it had videotapes of historical material to show visitors who come to our museum, but we had no equipment with which to show them.

We are happy to report that we now have a new television and VCR in our museum, courtesy of Denny's TV & Appliance, and take this opportunity to thank these public-spirited people for providing us with the use of this equipment. We also had offers from a few Sun City and Sun City West residents who responded to our plea and we thank them for their willingness to help.

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> James W. Hawks, president Sun Cities Area Historical Society







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SEE YOU THERE!





Sale supports Historical Society

Speaking for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, I want to thank our members and friends who contributed items for our yard sale last Saturday at "Our Old House" at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.

The sale netted nearly \$500, which will help pay our utility and other costs in maintaining our little museum where we display historical information about how Sun City got started and what makes it the world's most active retirement community.

Also, thanks to those Society members who worked long hours in setting up tables where the items were displayed and in serving those who came to buy.

Our museum, housed in the first house Del Webb built in Sun City, is open to the public 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

News - Sun - 2/23/16 Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Editor:

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James W. Hawks The Wester 2/29/96 President

S.S. Independent 3 +2 -96 Historical group's sale a success

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James W. Hawks, President Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Historical society to celebrate 10th anniversary April 17

By CINDY TRACY 4/10/96 Independent Newspapers

As of Jan. 1, 1960, the population of the new community of Sun City, Ariz., was zero.

By Jan. 1, 1963, the population had jumped to 7,000, with 90 clubs and organizations and residents hailing from all 50 states.

These and other fascinating facts about Sun City's colorful past are the stock in trade of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Now what is called the Sun Cities Area Historical Society has a history of its own to celebrate. The society has reached its 10th anniversary and members are invited to come and bring a non-member with them to the group's annual spring membership meeting taking place at 1:30 p.m. April 17 at the Sun City West Community Service Center, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Featured at this special meeting will be Abe Harris of Buckeye. A worker in the area during the 1950s, Mr. Harris saw the area go from a "tent town" for cotton pickers to the community known as Sun City.

He will answer the question: "Was there life in Sun City before Webb?"

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City. Its phone number is 974-2568. It is open by appointment.



SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A SPECIAL INVITATION

PLEASE MARK

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 1996

ON YOUR CALENDAR

FOR A VERY SPECIAL MEETING

OUR ANNUAL SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

PLACE; Sun City West Community Service Center 14465 R. H. Johnson Blvd.

TIME; 1:30 p.m. Refreshments and a short Business meeting

Mr. Abe Harris from Buckeye. Mr Harris worked SPEAKER: in the area in the '50's and saw the area transformed from a cotton picking "tent town' - to Sun City. His title "Was There Life in Sun City Before Webb"?

Meet with friends and fellow members and hear an outstanding program. We are expecting a good turnout and hoping some of our Sun City and Sun City West Pioneers will be present. Please

invite a non-member friend to come with you.

Sun Cities Area Historical Society 10801 Oakmont Dr. Sun City, AZ. 85351

SCAHS is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.



Living history

County planner spins tales about Sun Cities' roots

By BRUCE ELLISON Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — As a teen-ager, Abe Harris of Buckeye used to cut cotton near Marinette — which is now called Sun City.

As a young man, he delivered hay to Lizard Acres for the 35,000 head of cattle being fed there.

Lizard Acres is now called Sun City West.

"And, yes," Harris, 59, assured members of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society on Wednesday afternoon, "there was life in the area before Del Webb."

It was Webb who came up with the idea of a huge retirement community, marketed on a grand scale, and who converted thousands of acres of cotton fields and grazing lands into the 70,000resident Sun Cities over the last 36 years.

But Harris and his family, Texas migrant workers, were on the land long before Webb, he said.

"I can assure you that life before Webb was completely different from the lifestyle you now enjoy," he said.

Harris, who is a member of the Maricopa County Planning and Zoning Commission, said his family moved to Arizona in 1944 "because there was cotton all over the place, and we folks from Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas knew how to pick cotton."

The area had not yet attracted Hispanics, who now



Steve Chernek/Daily News-S

Margaret Grotemeyer of Sun City West shares a laugh with Abe Harris of Buckeye aft his speech to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Wednesday. Harris once worked the Northwest Valley before the Sun Cities were developed.

make up a large part of the farm workers, he said. Instead, buses were sent to black communities back in the cotton belt, to bring back workers. "They provided the transport and the housing," he said — with cotton picking starting in July.

"There were no automatic

machines back then," he said. "We were the machines."

After moving back and forth for two years, his parents decided to stay in Arizona, Harris said, and found housing near Buckeye. Not in it, "because black people couldn't live in Buckeye in those days." Instead, th were sent to Allentown, small black housing proje developed just for them the Salt River bed that eve tually was destroyed b flooding.

Housing for such migran still exists in parts of t ► See Society glimpses,

DAILY NEWS SUN

Society glimpses history

From A1

area south of Grand Avenue down to Gila Bend, Harris said, though it is no longer used.

"We 'all lived in what you called labor camps," he said. One can be seen two miles south of Interstate 10 on Palo Verde Road, at the south end of the Sun Valley Parkway.

Housing was an adobe shack, "four walls and a bare bulb, with everything else (such as water and toilets) outside."

"We had a rough time in the fields, mostly because of the rattlesnakes. Some days, you could kill 20. Every picker had a sharp knife, to use to cut the puncture wound and suck out the poison," he said — something doctors no longer recommend.

Eventually, his father bought a truck, and began hauling supplies from the Buckeye area to what is now the Sun Cities. His son, Abe, soon was driving trucks after school and on weekends, bringing in cash income.

"Working up into Marinette and Lizard Acres, I tell you I never had a dream that it would be anything other than what it was then, cotton and cattle.

Answering a question, he said most field workers thought of Youngtown — established for retirees in 1954, six years ahead of Webb — as "just another small town by the tracks.

"We didn't understand what it was. It wasn't promoted like Webb's was. You were always hearing something about Sun City." The field workers did see Webb as a possible additional source of income, though, Harris said.

"When I found out he was completing 11 homes a day, I just couldn't believe it."

Later, answering questions, Harris said that pay for the cottonfield work in the 1950s was about \$4 a day - "that was 40 cents an hour for 10 hours."

He said he and other migrant children in Arizona attended school because that was the law. But they also worked, he said.

"When I was growing up, it was straight to the fields from school, and straight to the fields on Saturday. You had to help pay your way."

These days, Harris said, kids may get in trouble because they have no concept of the idea of work, no respect for their parents, and little respect for education. "We have lost the moral values that make a family," he said to considerable applause.

Lizards, rattlesnakes, cotton

Buckeye man explains life in SC before Webb

By JOHN S. WOLFE Independent Newspapers

If there was one place Abe Harris didn't want his truck to break down, it was "Lizard Acres."

Located at the end of Dysart Road, it was right in desert.

"You'd see lizards running all over the place," he recalls.

That was the Sun Cities before the Sun Cities, a rather bustling mixture of cotton fields, feed lots, cattle farms and migrant workers.

It was Abe Harris' life from the time he was 6, the softspoken man with a preacher's presence told members of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society last Thursday afternoon.

He came to Arizona from Crockett, Texas, with his family, one story among the thousands of families brought here by truck to work cotton fields and then returned home.

By the early 1940s, his mother had tired of the trip, and told her family they were going to stay put.

They lived outside the city limits of Buckeye, where minorities were forced to live, and worked. The workers thinning cotton in the Valley were paid by the acre. For most a 10-hour day brought \$4, he says.

Mr. Harris, 59, recalls heading to the fields after school and on Saturdays.

"That's what we knew how to do, that's what we were expected to do, and that's what we had to do," he says.

He started hauling hay when he was 12.

When his stepfather was able to build a camp for laborers, Mr. Harris soon had the opportunity to haul maize out of what is now Sun City to area feed lots.

"I would do anything to stop chucking cotton," he says with a smile. When Webb began building Sun City, "It was the most exciting thing I saw in my life," recalls Abe Harris. He was impressed with how different teams went from house to house pouring floors or doing framing or other tasks.

Still, it was hard life, he says. "My upbringing instilled things in me as a kid that I swore if I ever got grown, things that I wouldn't do," he says. "Like I wouldn't move, and I would build me a house."

He says he chuckles when he hears builders talk about their problems putting golf courses in the

desert.

"Back then we had problems, too," he says. "We were killing 26 rattlers a day at Gila Bend. The problem was so bad that kids weren't allowed to go into the fields."

In the '50s you could have never dreamt that there wouldn't be anything other than what there had been here, he says.

When Webb began building Sun City, "It was the most exciting thing I saw in my life," he recalls.

Mr. Harris knew a lot of the people who worked on Webb's project and he was impressed with how different teams went from house to house pouring floors or doing framing or other tasks.

May 3, 1965 was the last day he worked in the fields.

He joined a job training program that created opportunities for migrant workers. That led to positions with the first health maintenance organization in Phoenix, the county's Community Action Program, and an energy company.

He is now director of the employment and training program for dislocated workers on the west side of Maricopa County. He is also a member of the county's planning commission.

Because Mr. Harris, a bishop at Mount Zion Holy Spiritual Church in Buckeye, has worked with young people for much of his life, he was asked why things seem so out of control today.

"The people who represent examples don't have any moral values," he says unapologetically.

Parents should follow the Bible and teach their young to be obedient and to be courteous to others.

"I believe that has gone out the window," he says. "If there is no discipline in the home, children are going to take that same attitude to their job, to school, and to the streets.

"If we don't discipline these kids, they're going to start disciplining us," he says pointedly.

He has a deep appreciation for the people of the community.

"Sun City came to our rescue in the mid-1960s," he says. "We used to have a daycare center in Avondale and Sun City volunteers would come and help us out."

He hopes that tradition continues.

"Many people are looking to you to share your wisdom and expertise," he says.

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APRIL 24, 1996

PAGE 2-SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT-MAY 22-28, 1996

Community News

SC Museum changes hours for Summer

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society announced last week that the hours of operation for its museum from June through August will be 10 a.m. to noon Fridays and Saturdays.

The group's president, James Hawks, pointed out that the museum normally closes for the summer, but that in recognition of its 10th anniversary it would like to accommodate those who spend the summer here.

The museum is housed in the first house built in Sun City, at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.

Museum remains open for summer

Sun City Indrawlent

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City, will be open from 10 a.m. to noon Fridays and Saturdays from June through August.

The museum is housed in the community's first model home.

Museum to Stay Open This Summer

At their board of trustees meeting last week the Sun Cities Area Historical Society voted to open its museum during the summer from 10 a.m. to 12 noon Fridays and Saturdays. James Hawks, President pointed out that the museum normally closes for the summer but in recognition of its Tenth anniversary the Society would like to accommodate those who spend the summer in Sun City.

The new schedule is for June through August.

The museum is housed in the first house built in Sun City, located at 10801 West Oakmont Drive in Sun City. Wast 023

PAGE B4 — SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT — MAY 1-7, 1996

What was the 1st club in Sun City?

Do you have "an item for "People in the News"? Send it to John Wolfe at the Independent, 10327 W. Coggins Drive, Sun City, Az. 85351. Be sure to include a phone number.

James Hawks, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, updated members on the progress of the group during their April 17 meeting, which featured a speech by Buckeye resident Abe Harris, who knew life in the area before Webb.

Mr. Hawks noted that the group has 117 members, representing 233 people. (Some memberships are husband and wife.)

For those who enjoy trivia, he displayed a letter from April 4, 1960 that listed the first recognized clubs of Sun City. They were: lapidary, sewing, swimming pool, woodworking, jewelry and copper, lawn bowling, ceramics, and shuffleboard.

Oakmont was the only center in existence and a membership cost \$1 per person per month. There were no rec center dues.

Historical Society

In an effort to inform our citizens about "our old house," the Sun Cities Historical Society is instituting a new program featuring the many clubs that are busily at work in our communities.

Clubs displaying some of their works are asked to work up a histo-

ry of their club and activities. By doing this while many of the original members are still with us, a history of each club can be formulated for posterity and added to in future years as our community progresses in time.

Though our residents have come from a great number of places in our wonderful country, as well as from overseas, we must not forget how we have assimilated with each other in our years of retirement.

Leading us off this first month is a beautiful display from the Sun City Clay Club at Lakeview Recreation Center. It was very difficult to choose from among the many beautiful pieces that are available from these many fine artists — many of

whom probably did not know how artistic they were until they came to Sun City.

"Our old house," the first home built in Sun City, is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive and is open 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Come down and see our display. We always have a host to welcome you.

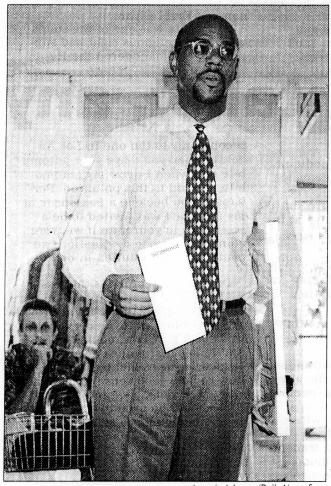
> Art Williams, director Sun Cities Historical Society

SUN CITIES MISSOURI CLUB,

8:30 a.m. July 1, Jukebox Cafe, 12535 W. Bell Road. "Breakfast Buffet for the Summer Survivors." Cost: \$7 per person, or \$7.50 if you request Eggbeaters. Reservation deadline June 27. Program is a presentation on the early history of this area by the historical society. Call

214-0758 or 214-6727.

Soroptimists allocate \$80,000



Jeannie Johnson/Daily News-Sun

David Scott Saunders, executive director for the YMCA Urban Services Program, thanks the Valley of the Sun Chapter of Soroptimist International for a donation to send children to camp.

Staff report

7-1-96

Many organizations serving children, families and the elderly received a fiscal boost from the Valley of the Sun Soroptimist Club.

Members of Soroptimist gathered at the group's thrift store at 107th and Peoria avenues last week to donate almost \$80,000 to several local non-profit agencies.

"You are all being recognized today because of your response to the needs of those around you." said Sheila Richardson, Soroptimist president. "You respond to big needs, little needs, big hurts, little hurts. You are helping those around you, so our organization does the same."

The money raised comes from two sources – the thrift shop and the aluminum can recycling bins around the Sun Cities and the Northwest Valley. And the Valley of the Sun chapter isn't the only Soroptimist group to improve the lives of others.

There are more than 100,000 members worldwide. This year, as an international project, Soroptimist has given money to Laos to remove the land mines left in the fields after the war in Southeast Asia.

"Soroptimist has given \$200,000 to buy the equipment needed to remove the landmines," Richardson said. "The majority of the volunteers doing the removal are the widows and mothers of those killed by land mines."

The following are some of the groups given donations by the Valley of the Sun Chapter of Soroptimist International:

■ Canine Companions, an organization dedicated to training dogs to assist those people confined to wheelchairs.

■ Faith House, a shelter for battered women and their children.

■ Girls Ranch, a program devoted to helping girls deal with emotional traumas and behavioral problems.

OVER

to charities

■ Glendale Family Development, a nonprofit group that provides hot meals to school children.

■ Hospice of Sun City, an all volunteer organization that sends respite care into the homes of the terminally ill to give the full-time caregiver a break.

■ Interfaith Services, centrally located between the Sun Cities, Interfaith offers a host of programs including day care for Alzheimer's patients, food deliveries for the homebound, support group and much more.

■ Peoria Transit, a group dedicated to solving the public transportation needs of Peoria families.

■ Sun City Area Transit, run out of an office on 99th Avenue, this group calls itself "The Wheels of Sun City" and takes its clients to the grocery store, doctor appointments and more.

■ Solecito, a group that has been providing free medical equipment to people in Peoria, Surprise, El Mirage, Waddell and Glendale for the past 15 years.

■ The Sheriff's Posse of Sun City, which sponsors a number of programs including vacation watch, R-U-O-K, Alzheimer's patient identification and more.

■ Sun Cities Historical Society, a group whose members are dedicated to the preservation of the history of the Sun Cities.

■ Sun Valley Lodge, the donation has been earmarked to buy furniture for the newly renovated lobby in the first nursing home in Sun City.

■ New Life Shelter, a place where abused women can find safety along with their children.

■ Dial-A-Ride, the free public transportation system in Surprise dedicated to helping the underprivileged get to the store, doctor's appointments and elsewhere.

■ YMCA Urban Youth Program, the donation will go toward sending five outstanding children from underprivileged homes to summer camp.

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DOERS PROFILE

Jim Hawks

News-Sun 7/8/96



Vita: Co-owner of community planning and consulting business in Minneapolis.

Hometown: Spent childhood in Des Moines, Iowa, 30 some years in Minneapolis.

Family: Wife, Kay; four children; seven granchildren.

Inspiration: Having the opportunity to attend a university and be exposed to the dreams that knowledge will open up.

Self-portrait: "I hope to maintain a positive view and have a fun life. When the opportunity to be helpful presents itself, I try to take advantage of it."

Resident spreads time, talent

By J.J. McCORMACK Senior staff writer

bout the only thing Jim Hawks hasn't done since walking away from his community planning consulting business is sit down – unless it's to read every newspaper he can get his hands on.

Almost immediately after settling into his Sun City home in 1986, Hawks took an interest in and got involved in regional and local issues he read about. Those issues ranged from the proposed Rio Salado water-storage and park project along the Salt River in the East Valley to a Sun City incorporation drive. "You need a reason to get up in the morning," Hawks said, explaining why he resisted the temptation to play golf every day.

"Also, you should participate in a community. My wife doesn't think you should as much as I do. But it's important to do something worthwhile when you have a chance."

Hawks' activism and community planning experience earned him an appointment in 1992 to the Maricopa County Planning and Zoning Commission. The commission considers zoning changes, land-use permits and other planning matters and makes recommendations to the county Board of Supervisors.

Hawks personally visits the sites of planning and zoning cases that affect District 4, or the Northwest Valley portion of the county. He's driven as far as 50 miles to visit an oil field in the far West Valley. More recently, he personally investigated and found numerous zoning problems with a proposed cock-fighting arena in the Southwest Valley.

"It's fun," Hawks said of the 12 to 15 hours a week he devotes to commission business.

Hawks is a former member of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors. He currently serves on the centers' personnel committee and is a member of the Sun City Foundation board of directors, the fund-raising arm of the recreation centers.

Hawks was an advocate of open communication between the recreation centers board and the membership. He said he learned while serving on the board that "there's a shortage in Sun City, not of people who want to say something, but of listeners."

Sun City resident Les Merydith, who worked with Hawks in a 1989 incorporation drive and in a utility-company watchdog organization called Water Watch, steered Hawks into the folds of the Sun Cities Historical Society.

Hawks has championed the society and its efforts to record and preserve the history of the Sun Cities for seven years. He currently is president of the society's board of directors and is a frequent speaker on historical topics for Sun Cities-area groups.

"The nice thing about history is it has happened, because if it hasn't happened, it isn't history," he said.

The nice thing about the historical society. Hawks said, is the job doesn't require selling ideas to people. That isn't the case with other boards and committees he has served on, he said.

Hawks is a former charter member of the Sun City Ambassadors board of directors and is a regular audience member at Sun City Taxpayers Association meetings.

He does squeeze a golf game in his busy schedule once a week, reserves time for travel and enjoys hiking with the Rockhound Club.

Historical Society appreciates funding

Speaking for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, I want to thank the Sun City Community Fund for its donation to help us through 1996.

The first house built in Sun City by Del Webb is the home of the Historical Society's museum. This is also where the all-volunteer staff collects and distributes information about the people and the hundreds of incidents that collectively produced the unique community we call home.

You can see and hear this story at our museum at 10801 Oakmont Drive, which is open in August from 10 a.m. to noon Friday and Saturday.

Solependent James W. Hawks 8/7/96 President Historical Society.

News - Sun 8-1-96 Community Fund donates to museum

Speaking for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, I want to thank the Sun City Community Fund for its donation to help us through 1996. The first house built in Sun City by

Del Webb is the home of the Historical Society's museum.

This is also where the all-volunteer staff collects and distributes information about the people and the hundreds of incidents that collectively produced the unique community we all call home.

You can see and hear this story at our museum at 10801 Oakmont Drive, open from 10:00 a.m. to noon Friday and Saturday during July and August.

> James W. Hawks President Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Sun City house still a model for living Residential demo is now a museum

By Barbara Deters Staff writer

T t's an unassuming home on a quiet street off Grand Avenue.

But in its day, it was quite the phenomenon. A two-bedroom, one-bath masonry home with a covered patio selling for \$8,500. Add \$600 for air conditioning and \$1,250 for a golf-course lot.

On New Year's weekend 1960, more than 100,000 people

IF YOU GO

What: Sun Cities Area Historical Society Museum. Where: 10801 Oakmont Ave., Sun

City. When: Summer

hours: 10 a.m. to noon Fridays and Saturdays. Winter hours (beginning Sept. 17): 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

the home, one of five models that Del Webb had built for the grand opening of Sun City, the nation's first active-adult retirement community, complete with recreation centers, golf courses and swimming pools. Today, people still traipse through the house at 10801 Oakmont Ave.,

from all over flocked to see

not to see what's new in home interiors and designs, but to remember what's old.

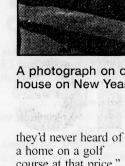
The house, home to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, is now a museum where visitors can learn about the area's history and the roots of Del Webb's Sun City concept, which has grown to 11 communities in five states.

"Most of the other developers thought Webb had flipped," said James Hawks, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. "Why would anybody want to go six miles past Peoria into a cotton field to live?"

But the homes sold themselves. Del Webb employees took orders for 237 homes on that four-day weekend in 1960. Today, there are 26,000 homes in Sun City.

"What brought the people out here was that

AFIZOMA



a home on a golf course at that price," said Albert Foster, the historical society's treasurer.

More than 7,000 people have visited the museum since it opened in 1989. Most of them are winter visitors or new people who have just moved in, Hawks said.

But the museum is becoming a research center for students of architecture and for foreigners, mostly government officials from Japan, Germany, France and South Korea who are looking for ways to house their elderly, he said.

The 662-square-foot house on Lot 1, which backs up to the ninth fairway of the North Golf Course, stayed a model home until 1962. Then N.C. "Jack" and Marie Wagers, who owned a home across the same ninth fairway, bought it as an investment.

The Wagers sold it shortly afterward to their daughter-in-law's parents, Chloe and John MacDonald, who lived in the home until their deaths, in 1971 and 1983, respectively. Jean Painter lived in the home from 1984 to 1988, and the historical society acquired it for \$41,500 in 1989.

But it was the MacDonalds, transplants from Denver, who gave the home character and gen-

Republic 8/8/96



A photograph on display in the museum shows the crowds that flocked to the model house on New Year's Day 1960, when Del Webb opened the Sun City development.



Nancy Engebretson/Staff photographer

Albert Foster (left) and James Hawks, the historical society's treasurer and president, respectively, show the house's kitchen.

erated most of the memories associated with it.

They added a third bedroom and a second bathroom and enclosed the porch as an Arizona room sometime in the 1960s.

"I can remember getting my finger caught in the sliding door (of the Arizona room)," said Susan Miller, one of the MacDonalds' grandchildren, who lives in the Denver area. "It was new to us to have sliding doors."

The MacDonalds also built a small partition in the kitchen to separate the eating area from the stove and the refrigerator with the shinypink aluminium accent.

Home once again a model for living

- HOME, from page B1

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The MacDonalds kept the pink exterior paint job and the pink-tile countertops in both the first bathroom and kitchen, which to this day have few cracks or gouges.

"It was just so neat to see that
hadn't changed at all," said Barbara
Wagers, another MacDonald grandchild.

Wagers discovered that her grandparents' home is now a museum during a visit in December.

The historical society has tried to restore the house to its original design. That meant taking out the second bathroom and removing the walls that separated the bedroom and Arizona room. The kitchen partition also was removed. Many of the family's memories center on Christmas in the Sun City house, and the way residents treated them.

"Everybody was very warm, friendly," Miller said. "As kids, we were very welcome."

For Miller, probably the biggest kick of Christmas in Sun City was that she and her siblings could swim on Christmas Day. She also remembers taking the official Christmas in Arizona picture on the brick wall in the MacDonalds' back yard.

"It was just really an awful lot of fun," she said.

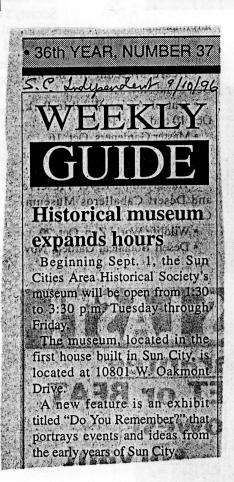
"Outside of my hometown, I probably have the strongest memories of Sun City. That was like a second home to me." Historical musculium expansis fumus equilibrium section of subcontrol states and section will deopenditorical society of moseum will deopenditorical society of moseum will deopenditorical society of submemory and the society of submemory function of subtraction of subations built in Sub-City, is located at 1080 f.W. Oakmond Drive. Alnew feature is an exhibit fitted Do Von Remember that bortrays events and adeas from the early years of Sin City.

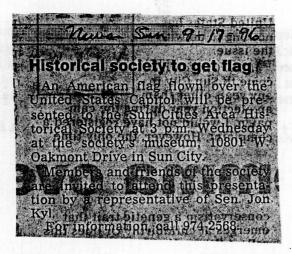
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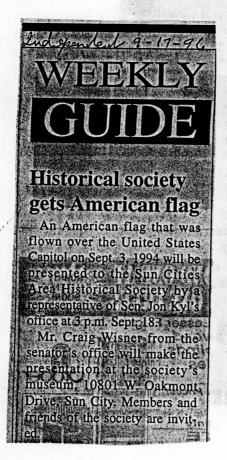
Beginning Sept. 1 the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's museum will be open 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. The museum, housed in the first house built in Sun City is located at 10801 West Oakmont Drive in Sun City. A new feature is an exhibit titled "Do You Remember?" that portrays events and ideas of the early years.

The Wester 9-5/11/96

Albert Foster







'Capital' Flag Presented to Area Historical Society

An American flag that was flown over the United States Capitol was presented to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society by a representative from Sen. Jon Kyl's office this week. Craig Wisner form Sen. Kyl's office will make the presentation at the Society's museum at 10801 West Oakmont Dr. in Sun City. Members and friends of the Society are invited.

This particular flag was flown over the Capitol at the request of the Hon. Jon Kyl who was a member of Congress at that time. Now Senator Kyl is giving the flag to the Society. The Wester $9/19^{-25}$

Cast in freedom Liberty Bell clone set tone for Sun City

By Jennifer Barrett Staff writer

Sun City

im Hawks says the idea probably came up over coffee in casual conversation.

Though he wasn't part of it, the president of the Sun City Historical Society can picture the scene: It was 1976, and a handful of Sun City residents were tossing around ideas to commemorate the country's bicentennial. Should they put up a wall? A plaque? Perhaps a tree?

Then someone suggested a bell. Not just any bell: a replica of the Liberty Bell.

Never mind that the 224-year-old bell weighs more than 3 tons and is housed in Philadelphia. Or that Schulmerich Carillons Inc., the company that casts copies of it, was located even farther away, in Asten, Holland.

The Sun City Bicentennial Committee put the idea to a vote before the city's residents — and it passed.

That proved to be the smallest hurdle in getting a cast of the bell mounted in time for Sun City's Bicentennial Independence Day celebration.

The next issue was finding enough metal for the full-size replica. Once again, the committee turned to the community for support. And it came in the form of bicycles, wedding bands and brass nameplates, 120 pounds of .22-caliber shell casings, and nine metal clarinets. Altogether, the city collected more than 7,000 pounds of metal at the former Sun City Stadium.

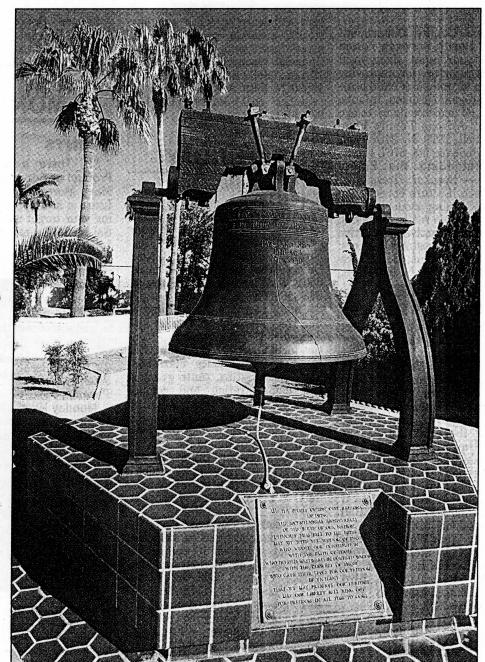
The eclectic assortment of items was shipped by truck to a Pennsylvania smelter, according to Hawks, and melted into identical molten metal bars.

Though he's been studying the bell's history on-and-off for two years, Hawks isn't quite sure how the 200-pound blocks were transported to Holland, or how the nearly 7,000-pound bell made it back to Arizona.

But it did. Although not quite in time for Independence Day.

Accounts differ on the exact date of the dedication, but Del Webb reports indicate Sun City's Liberty Bell first officially tolled Nov. 15, 1976, three times — "once for each 100 years of freedom and once to signify (residents') determination to remain a free nation under God."

About 1,000 people crowded into the Del E. Webb Memorial Gardens by 99th See BELL, Page 3



Nancy Engebretson / Staff photographer Sun City's Liberty Bell replica has been a city symbol since it arrived in 1976. Jim Hawks, president of the Sun City Historical Society, says the replica is a tribute to the ideals of those who live in the community.

LANDMARK

What: Liberty Bell replica. When was it made? 1976.

Where: Del E. Webb Memorial Gardens, Sun City. Who cast it? Schulmerich Carillons Inc., Holland. What's it made of?

What's it made of? Metal. Avenue and Bell Road to watch the ceremony. Below the bell's red-tiled foundation, community leaders buried a time capsule of poems and messages from residents, news clippings, a bicentennial quilt, and snapshots of the dedication. It will not be recovered until 2026. Today, the bell remains the centerpiece of the well-kept gardens. It may seem out of place sharing the garden with a statue of the community's founder, Del E. Webb, tucked between a golf course and library. But Hawks says the Liberty Bell replica is a tribute to the ideals of the man who founded the community and the beople who live in it, just as the original bell is to those who founded the country. "The fact that there was such an effort to get it, that says something," he says. "They had a respect and appreciation for our country."

Specialisticate here in

country." The formal ringing draws crowds every Fourth of July, but the bell attracts curious visitors all year. Some take a turn tugging at the long, knotted white cord.

the long, knotted white cord. "You can ring it any time you want to, but you usually don't," "Hawks says. "Though the little kids like to, and sometimes the big kids too." Hawks admits to falling into the latter category. He says the bell's got a nice resonance.

"I'm not aware of any other duplicate Liberty Bell any place that's at scale." he adds. "This is one of a kind."

Have a favorite landmark you'd like to read about? Send information to Jennifer Barrett, West Valley Community, 22600 N. 19th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85027 or call 780-7113.



Nancy Engebretson / Staff photographer

A flag with plenty of history

Sun Cities Area Historical Society by the office of U.S. Sen. Jon Kyl last week. Placing Old Glory on a pole Wednesday at the society's headquarters were Art Williams of the society and Craig Wismer of Kyl's office

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S.C. Independent 9-25-96 Historical society hosts book review

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The Arizona Humanities Council and the Sun Cities Area Historical Society present the next installment of their "Voices from Communities in Transition" series Sept. 30.

The program will feature a review of Daniel Kemmis' book,

"Community and the Politics of Place." The book is available at the Bell and Fairway libraries in Sun City.

The talk will be held 8:30 a.m. at the Sun City Library, 16828 N. 99th Ave., Sun City.

Historical society hosts book review

The Arizona Humanities Council and the Sun Cities Area Historical Society present the next installment of their "Voices from Communities in Transition" series Sept. 30.

The program will feature a review of Daniel Kemmis' book,

Club in quest of members Antique lovers looking for others, who share their passion can sign up. to join the Questersas blog shill notifi The Questers is an international organization founded in 1944 to furorganization founded in 1944 to fur-ther the study and collection of an-tiqués and to encourage the preser-vation and restoration of historic landmarks. The group has 15,000 members in 43 states, including 40 chapters in Arizona. Half of the state's chapters are located in the sistate's chapters are located in the Sun Cities area uls zadana ziorado , but Arizona Questers makes donations toward restoration of several Arizona landmarks, including the original Del Webb house operated by the Sun City Historical Society and the Greer Ranch log cabin belonging to the Youngtown Historical Society. The Questers membership meeting is at 9:30 a.m. at the First Presbycterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City For information, call Eugene Serbus at 254-2516. 9-96 200 news - Suy 10-

No ground subsidence documented

T have been a resident of Sun City 16 concrete block walls in and around since 1969. I was one of 13 Sun anis I Sun City and the society has pictures Citians who organized the Sun Cities and news accounts of damage to Historical Society in 1986. I have want these walls in our file due to vehicle riparticipated in some 90 monthly meetings and presided for two years.1 one instance of damage due to I have talked to Jane Freeman who it I ground subsidence. H hereit from was archivist and Glenn Sanberghans is None of the 36 Sun City telephone who was cofounder of the society) is v directories contain any advertise-^d and none of us could recall any ¹¹ ments of firms offering repair ser-⁽²⁾ mention of ground subsidence or ⁽¹⁾ vice on structural damage that could damage to floors, foundations walls, ¹⁰sidewalks,⁰pavements or utility in-²²¹¹stallations in Sun City caused by

There are an estimated 550,000

rectangular door and window frames dividuals who lived or worked in 3 Cin Sun City and I do not recall any a swhat is now Sun City as far back as tione every writing a letter to the editor) the mule team days. None of these or complaining to Del Webb that a surface contain any reference to costly hib door or window would not open and or dangerous ground subsidence in close because it was a half inch out the area now known as Sun City?

collisions and falling trees but not' have been caused by ground subsidence.

The historical society also has on ⁶ ground subsidence in past years. O Ha file a growing number of professionally taped interviews with in-10

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Vulture Road once buzzed with trade

Motorists traveling and competing
 for clear lanes on Grand Avenue
 very likely do not know that this busy
 highway was once named "Vulture



Road." In 1863, a German minerologist, Henry Wickenburg, with his burro Arizona Nightingale, was prospecting in the hills overlooking the Hassayampa River, northwest of the present site of Sun City.

According to one story, Wickenburg decided to move on after failing to find gold, but Nightingale balked. In anger, Wickenburg picked up a rock to throw at the pack animal. The rock felt heavier than ususal and when the prospector examined it he saw that it was loaded with gold. At that moment a vulture flew over.

Another version has Henry shooting a vulture and when he went to pick up the bird, he found gold at the spot where it fell.

Regardless of how it happened, the greater gold discovery in Arizona came to be called the Vulture Mine. Soon, eight-mule teams were hauling freight over what was named the Vulture Road.

Near the mine, the first town in Maricopa County mushroomed on the west bank of the Hassayampa River where ore from the mine was being crushed. In October 1864, this settlement was officially named Wickenburg, Territory of Arizona. In two years it was one of the largest cities in Arizona and missed being chosen as the capital by only two votes.

By 1908 the Vulture Road, had become a "Grand Avenue," as it is now named, because of its heavy use as the route for wagons laoded with produce and supplies between Wickenburg and the growing agricultural area in the Salt River Valley.

This item for Down Memory Lane is from the files of the the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.





SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

to our Annual Fall Membership Luncheon and Meeting

DATE;	wednesday,	November	13,	1996	

- PLACE; Lakes Club, 10484 Thunderbird Blvd. Small Banquet room
- <u>TIME;</u> 12 Noon, Hot luncheon followed by Business meeting, reports and speaker.
- PRICE; \$11.00 per person
- <u>SPEAKER;</u> Nancy Gilkeson, President, Community Fund She will give a history of the Commu-Fund: when it started, services offered how to secure a grant, etc.

Please plan to come and enjoy fellowship with friends and fellow members and hear Ms. Gilkeson give us some interesting facts about the Community Fund.

Your Reservation is your check for \$11.00 per person, made payable to SCAHS and sent to 10801 Oakmont Dr., Sun City, AZ 85351 by <u>November 7, 1996</u>.

If transportation is needed, please call the Historical Society, 974-2568, and leave name, address, phone No.

Please invite a non-member friend to come with you.

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Society will hold its annual fall membership luncheon and meeting noon Nov. 13 at the Lakes Club, 10484 Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City. Nancy Gilkeson, president of the Sun City Community Fund, will review the history of the Community Fund and explain services offered by the organization. Cost is \$11. For reservations call 974-2568 by Nov.7.

Historical Society Needs New Board Members

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society needs 12 plus members. Several of the present Board members terms will expire at the end of 1996. The Board meets once a month to plan future events, make reports on their respective jobs-treasurer, membership, hostess chairman, etc. Committee appointments are assigned. Two membership meetings with speakers are planned, also other money-raising events. It is an enjoyable and rewarding job. If you might be interested, or know of a friend who might be, call Jim Hawks, 933-2979.

Historical Society Membership Luncheon

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society invites area residents to its Annual Fall Membership Luncheon and Meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 13, at Noon for a hot luncheon, followed by a business meeting, reports and speaker.

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Nancy Gilkeson, president, Community Fund will give a history of the Community Fund: when it started, services offered how to secure a grant, etc. Your reservation is a check for \$11 per person, made payable to SCAHS and sent to 10801 Oakmont Dr., Sun City, AZ 85351 by Nov. 7.

If transportation is needed, please call the Historical Society, 974-2568, and leave name, address, phone No.

Shop Our Advertisers Tell 'em You Saw It In The Wester

Sun City wasn't nation's 1st age-restricted community

"Sun City was the first retirement community to require residents to

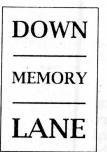
meet certain age restrictions before they could purchase homes." Not so, according to the record.

In 1954, six years before the Del Webb Development Co. sold the first house in Sun City, Elmer-Johns, developer of

Youngtown, was restricting home buyers to those at least 60 years of age. Contrary to the prevailing idea that people would not accept a lifestyle cut off from a cross-section of all ages, Johns built and sold 100 or more homes on his 300 acres sur-, rounding a small water storage lake set among cottonwood trees.

Webb executives were well aware of the breakthrough Johns had achieved. A single short segment of Dave Garroway's NBC "Today Show" had described this newly organized retirement community sprouting from the desert sands of Arizona. More than 50,000 inquiries were elicited as a result of that one program. It was obvious that a potential market was there.

But the Webb people discovered a



basic flaw in the Youngtown development, an error that would have to be corrected if their retirement community were to succeed. The theory that needed rethinking was that retired people lived on the edge of poverty and wanted only modest homes that could be built and maintained on incomes of \$300 to \$400 a month — just a place to "retire to" with porch and a rocking chair.

What this meant was the need to include in the cost of the homes the construction of a golf course and recreation center, plus a mechanism whereby the home owner paid to maintain these facilities indefinitely. Webb knew the company was going into uncharted waters. Responding to a reporter, he said, "We knew we were taking a calculated risk, but in the contracting business you have to do it. Building Sun City is a gamble, but I'm pretty damn sure it will work."

Sun City was the first retirement community to include both age restrictions and the cost of facilities for an active lifestyle in the title to a home.

This month's Down Memory Lane is from the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

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