

Daily News Sun 1/18/97

Boswells were key to Sun City's birth

The name "Boswell" is almost as well known in Sun City as is "Webb" — Boswell Hospital, Boswell Boulevard, and so on. This is good because without the Boswell Brothers, James and Walter, there might never have been a Sun City.

After German submarines cut off the supply of long-staple cotton coming into this country in World War I, the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. came to Arizona to find a place to grow their own. Eventually they bought and operated three large ranches in the Valley.

During this same period, the Boswell family, originally cotton growers in Georgia, had operated ranches in California and were well known in the industry. When Goodyear decided they needed experienced ranchers to manage their cotton business, they leased their ranches to Walter Boswell, one of three Boswell brothers.

Later, when Goodyear decided to get out of the cotton business, the Boswells purchased one of the ranches, Marinette, a spread of 10,000 acres. They eventually added another 10,000 acres purchased from the Sante Fe Railroad, giving them an expanse of 20,000 acres extending

from Peoria to Luke Air Force Base.

James Boswell, another of the three brothers, had become president of the company in 1952, and in 1959 learned that the Webb Co. was in the market for tracts of land for development. Boswell contacted Webb executives and it didn't take long for them to agree that the type of development Webb visualized had exciting possibilities.

Working late into the night, they made a deal that was to make sociological history on the American scene. A new corporation was formed, the Del E. Webb Development Co. (DEVCO). The company was capitalized with funds provided equally by both parties.

Extra money was needed for start-up costs to build a golf course, a recreation center and a shopping center, because these had to be in place before one house could be sold. A loan from Boswell matched "in kind" by Webb took care of this.

Webb committed to purchase 10,000 acres. And on Boswell's insistence, the land was to be transferred as the development proceeded. This made it possible for the Webb company to purchase the land without tying up huge capital sums, and it permitted Boswell to continue an orderly retreat from ranching operations.

From the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

DOWN

MEMORY

LANE

Del E. Webb was lifelong

Del E. Webb not only invented active retirement living; he was a dyed-in-the-wool baseball fan.

When Del Webb was born in Fresno, Calif., in 1899, his father was president of a sand and gravel company — and a baseball fan. His love for the game rubbed off on Del and never ceased to be a part of his life; its influence was felt years later in Sun City.

By the time Del had learned to read, he was swinging a bat and handling a saw. As reported in a 1960 Sports Illustrated article, "By the time he was 13, a beanpole of a kid weighing 130 pounds and standing 6 feet.3 inches, he was considered one of the best first basemen around Fresno, and if he was lucky, sometimes got as much as \$2.50 a game by playing on a pick-up semi-pro team."

Webb left school after his freshman year, after his father went bankrupt, going to work as a car-

DOWN MEMORY LANE

penter to help support his family. It also meant he could play more baseball. He worked all over, not limiting himself to the Fresno area. When taking on a job he always asked: "Does this company have a baseball team?" If not, he'd move on.

In 1917, too young to join the military, he worked at the Oakland shipyards for \$8 a day, supplementing his salary with earnings as a semipro ball player on the shipyard team.

After the end of World War I, when work slackened at the shipyards, he moved from job to job, picking work only at companies with a baseball team — and waiting, hopefully, like most part-time ball players, for a call from the big leagues.

During the next several years, Webb bounced around various leagues, sometimes in outlaw leagues under an assumed name. Once he pitched in an exhibition game for the inmates of San Quentin Prison. He pitched so frequently that by his early 20s, he had developed a chronically sore arm.

After a serious illness and additional seiges of sore arm, he decided

to give up baseball. All the energy and drive formerly dedicated to baseball would now be channeled into work.

After Webb became highly successful as a construction company executive, he started investigating the possibilities of owning a major league baseball team. He had made several contacts with baseball people, including Leo Durocher who introduced him to Larry MacPhail, then an assistant to the secretary of war and later a major league baseball executive. MacPhail brought up the idea of buying the Yankees. Webb was interested, but was too busy with war construction to pursue it.

But while building El Toro (Calif.) Marine Base, he met a young army captain named Dan Topping. They discussed the possibilities of buying the Yankees and Topping suggested that he might be able to swing a deal. Webb said to count him in.

In 1945, while playing golf in the Phoenix Open, Webb got a call from Topping. He reluctantly withdrew from the tournament and flew to New York where they completed a

baseball fan

deal to buy the Yankees thereby, becoming part owner of the club. It included not only the Yankees, but also the stadiums in New York, Newark and Kansas City and the arm teams.

In 1966, a girls softball team from Phoenix named the Phoenix Ramblers disbanded and were looking for a place to play. When Sun City retirees showed an interest in adopting the team, the Del Webb Development Co. constructed a stadium on the corner of Grand and 108th Avenues where JB's restaurant now exists. The new Sun City Saints had a home.

Del Webb's love for baseball resurfaced in 1971 when DEVCO built the Sun City Stadium at 111th Avenue just north of Grand Avenue. The playing field was built to major league standards, typical of Webb's attitude toward the game. Built on a patch near the Agua Fria River, an ideal site for a bowl, the playing field was 23 feet below the parking lot. Special attention was given to making senior citizens comfortable by providing more than adequate legroom between rows in the 4,000-seat

stadium.

The San Francisco Giants used the stadium for spring training in 1972 and the following year the Milwaukee Brewers came on the scene. The Brewers later signed a 10-year contract. The spring training schedule brought seven other major league teams to play in Sun City. Programs and concessions were handled by local Lions Club, with profits going for charitable projects.

Harvey Kuenn, a former major league star with the Detroit Tigers, managed the Brewers, leading them to the American League pennant and World Series in 1982. Featuring a bunch of long-ball hitters, the team was known as "Harvey's Wall Bangers." Kuenn made his home in Sun City while managing the Brewers, living first at 10006 Waikiki Drive and later at 17406 Country Club Drive, and was a member of the Union Hills Country Club.

Del Webb took baseball with him wherever he went.

Material for this Down Memory Lane comes from the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

2-6-97
Daily News-Sun

Historical Society plans annual sale

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will conduct its annual Treasure and Trivia Sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 22 at its museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Those who wish to contribute items for the sale may drop them off at the museum between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. through Friday.

Proceeds from the sale help pay for operating costs of the museum.

The organization is housed in the first home built in Sun City and is one of five models from which home buyers selected their homes when Sun City first opened on Jan. 1, 1960. *S.C. Independent*

2-19-97

RUMMAGE SALE

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Treasures/Trivia Sale

Saturday, February 22

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

10801 Oakmont Drive

**SOMETHING
FOR EVERYONE!**

Society serves up treasures

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society's annual treasure and trivia

sale will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday in its museum at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Those who contribute items will receive tax exemption certificates if requested. Items may be delivered to the Historical Society from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. through Friday. Contributors who need help delivering articles may leave a message at 974-2568. *News-Sun 2-17-97*

Sale raises funds for historical group

Speaking for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, I would like to thank those members and friends of the society who contributed items for our annual Treasure and Trivia Sale.

We also appreciate the interest of those who purchased items at the sale.

The sale, one of our most successful, netted more than \$600 which will go a long way toward meeting our operating budget. To all of you, thanks for helping our all-volunteer staff preserve and spread the story of the Sun Cities, America's first master-planned active adult retirement communities.

PHYLLIS STREET, PRESIDENT
SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

S.C. Independent 3/19



LETTERS

Thanks for helping preserve heritage

Speaking for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, I would like to thank those members and friends of the society who contributed items for our annual treasure and trivia sale. We also appreciate the interest of those who purchased items at our sale.

The sale, one of our most successful, netted more than \$600, which will go a long way toward meeting our operating budget.

To all of you, thanks for helping our all-volunteer staff preserve and spread the story of the Sun Cities, America's first active retirement communities.

Phyllis Street
Sun City

Contest led to naming of Sun City

In December 1959, the Del Webb Development Co. was well on the way to opening its sales office to start taking orders for the first homes in Sun City.

DOWN

MEMORY

LANE

Five model homes were finished and furnished, the first nine holes of a golf course were completed. The recreation center, swimming pool, crafts building, plus lawn bowling, shuffleboard, horseshoe pitching and croquet courts were

ready. The first section of the shopping center was ready.

At this point, an official name had not yet been determined for the new city. A contest to select a name was announced in papers around the country with the Reuben Donnelly Co. of Chicago retained to conduct it.

On Dec. 8, the entries were being reviewed by the Donnelly representatives and Webb executives. A dozen or so names were being discussed when Del Webb walked in. Examining some of the names, he casually remarked, "I like Sun City."

When he left the room, one of the

Webb executives remarked, "Well, that's it." The Reuben Donnelly people objected, saying that they had been hired to conduct a contest, and if they were to certify the winners, the selection would have to be made under the rules.

"You don't seem to understand," they were told. "If Del Webb says that is the name, then that's what it will be." The Donnelly people finally agreed and were paid for their services and Sun City became the official name.

From the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Daily News-Sun 3-22-97

The Western 4/6/97

Sun Cities Historical Society

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold its annual spring meeting at 1:30 p.m., April 9, at the Sun City West Community Service Center, Phyllis Street, Society president announced.

Joe Yarchin, urban wildlife specialist and Randy Babb, information and education program manager, Arizona Game and Fish Department, will discuss "Urban Wildlife: An Historical Perspective."

The Community Service Center is located at 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd. (at the intersection of Stardust Blvd., across from the

Fred P. Kuentz Recreation Center).

What kind of wild creatures roamed the Northwest Valley before Sun City and Sun City West came on the scene? Can we share our environment with reptiles, mammals, amphibians, birds and other wildlife that lived here long before we did? These and other questions about our wild neighbors will be answered at this meeting.

The meeting is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

S.C. Independent 4-1-97

Desert wildlife examined at talk

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will present a talk on urban wildlife at its spring meeting.

The meeting will be conducted 1:30 p.m. April 9 at the Sun City West Community Services Building on the corner of R.H. Johnson and Stardust boulevards.

Joe Yarchin and Randy Babb will discuss "Urban Wildlife: An Historical Perspective." The talk will describe the types of animals living in the desert.

The public is welcome.

Society discusses wildlife

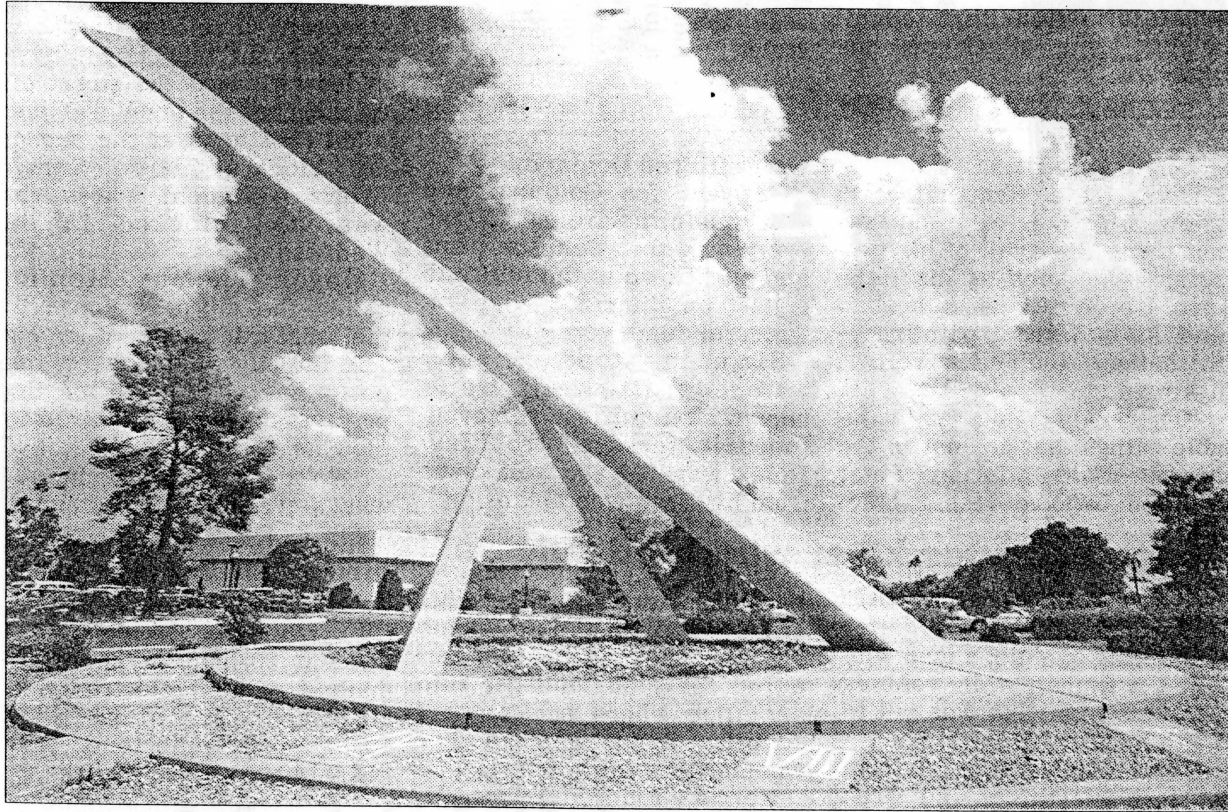
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For information, call 974-2568.

News-Sun 4-1-97

Landmark ensures Sun City always has big time



A photograph supplied by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society shows Sun City's Sundial shortly before its completion in April 1973. The \$2 million structure, shown above as it appears today, is reportedly the largest sundial in the United States.

Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

The Sun Cities are relatively new with a heritage less than half a century old. But that doesn't mean residents haven't had time to collect a landmark or two. This is the first in an occasional series about the history and relevance behind selected local landmarks.

By RUTHANN HOGUE
Staff writer

Fifteen hundred people turned out in Sun City 24 years ago this month when Del Webb dedicated the nation's largest sundial.

The event marked the developer's last public appearance in the area when the \$2 million Sundial Recreation Center opened its doors at 10 a.m. April 14, 1973.

Since then, the gigantic timepiece has greeted thousands of Sun City residents and visitors alike — including President Clinton, who spoke at Sundial during the final days of his campaign last year.

Sundial was the fifth recreation center built by Del Webb and donated to Sun City residents. It was heralded as the

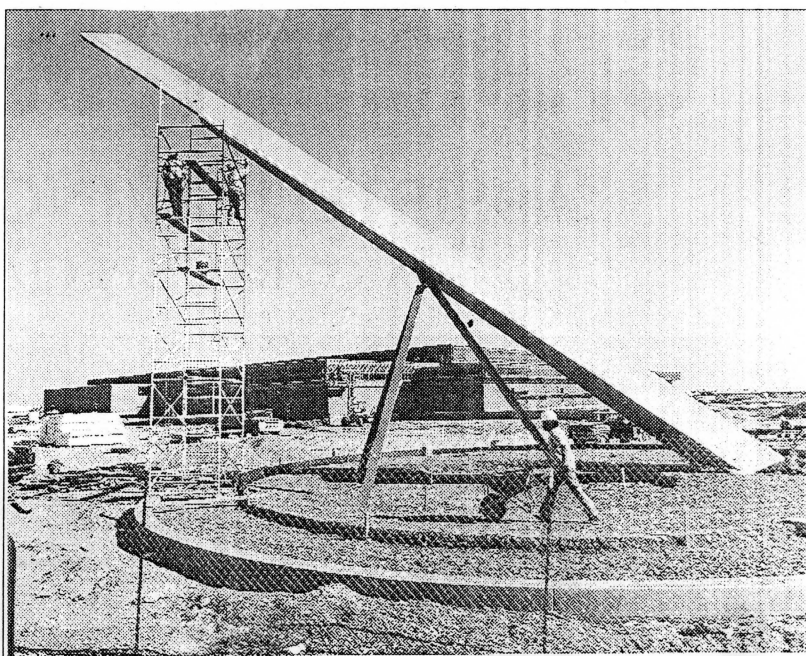
biggest and the best when it opened after 10 months of construction.

The Sundial Center boasted the first indoor shuffleboard courts. It claimed the state's largest indoor swimming pool, 50-by-100 feet, including a 25-by-25 foot diving area. The

world's largest synthetic plants, which have since been removed, once towered as they reached toward a 32-foot ceiling when the center opened.

So it's no wonder that John Meeker, former president of

► See Sundial secures, A5



Submitted photo

Sundial secures landmark

■ From A1

Del E. Webb Development Corp., felt compelled to demand that the center's namesake sundial be the largest in the country.

Willie A. Chapman was hired to research the monumental project. Based, in part, on Chapman's findings, architects Bricker and Hoyt built the sundial. It was built 1 foot taller than a similar sundial in Carefree, to ensure its title as the largest.

Jim Hawks, vice president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, said he isn't sure that the average person thinks of the landmark as a sundial when they look at the ominous structure. And they certainly don't appear to use it to tell the time. Even if they did, it would only be accurate twice a year, he said.

"The sun comes up and the sun moves in a predictable way so you can read the shadow," Hawks said, clarifying that seasonal changes affect exactly where the shadows are cast. The garden variety of sundials that are commonly used as yard ornaments can be adjusted to read time accurately.

"But this one you don't move," Hawks said.

Hawks has lived in Sun City for 11 years. He became familiar with the landmark sundial in the late '80s while serving on the recreation center board.

"When I first showed up, I looked at it and thought it was a jungle," Hawks said. "It was overgrown. It had been landscaped and it got out of control."

Hawks saw to it that the excess vegetation was cleared away. He wanted the sundial to look its best.

"Being a city of retirees, Sun City always had time on its hands," Hawks said, commenting on the appropriateness of the structure.

The Sundial Center was named by two Sun City women who entered a contest sponsored by Del E. Webb Development Co. and the Sun City Community Association. Arline Ellision and Viola Cody each won two 1972 Community Association Activity cards for their submission.

To suggest a landmark for future stories, write to "Sun Cities Landmarks" in care of the Daily News-Sun, P.O. Box 1779, Sun City, Ariz. 85372.

Sun City made exception for doctor's son

The first Sun City residents learned real soon that they couldn't find many of life's necessities around the corner, down the street or even in the next town. At the top of the list was medical care. They couldn't even find a practicing physician in their own community.

**DOWN
MEMORY
LANE**

Long before the need was apparent, Del E. Webb was aware that a retirement community without health care would be hard to sell.

DEVCO had started construction on a \$75,000 medical clinic and had promised to supply it with all basic medical equipment. There would be space for receptionists, waiting rooms, treatment rooms, laboratory and X-ray. But no doctor answered the call.

Dr. Robert M. Stump had started as a Santa Fe Railroad doctor in northern Arizona. He and his Willys Overland rumbled over dirt roads to make house calls up to 100 miles away. Eventually he built himself and his patients a hospital in Winslow. In 1937, the doctor moved his practice to the dusty cowtown of Phoenix. By 1960, Phoenix was filling up and Stump was thinking of slowing down.

The little 500-strong neighborhood of Sun City looked like it offered a leisurely pace. Dr. Stump decided to give it a try.

A problem appeared immediately: Dr. Stump had a 10-year-old son. Webb had tried to improve the services in Sun City once before when he brought a handyman into the community. The man had a family of small children, and despite the needs, Sun Citians flying Webb's own no-children restriction forced the family out of the community.

After recruiting Stump, Webb mailed each homeowner a letter detailing the long, hard struggle to lure a physician into the town.

A group of angry Sun Citians gathered their community together three times in an attempt to vote the doctor and his son out of town. Although they managed a tie vote once, the majority kept their own best interest in mind and decided, just this once, to bend the rules. The boy was allowed to stay and his father set up shop in his home at 10833 W. Oakmont Drive while waiting for the Sun City Medical clinic to be completed.

For more than 10 years, as doctors began arriving in the burgeoning Sun City, Dr. Stump worked out of his first office in the newly constructed clinic at 10820 Oakmont, making house calls for \$7.

After DEVCO sold the building that housed the clinic in the mid-1970s, the new landlords raised the doctor's rent. Stump sent a letter to his patients saying that as a result, he had no choice but to close his practice or raise his fees. His patients agreed to pay more for his services, but Stump moved his office to Youngtown.

Down Memory Lane is from the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. News - Sun 4/14/97

Historical Museum sets summer hours

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society museum has announced new hours for summer.

The museum will be open 10 a.m.-noon Fridays and Saturdays. Hours will be effective from June to August.

The museum is housed in the first house built in Sun City, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive. Call 974-2568. S.C. Independent 6/4/97

COMMUNITY NOTEBOOK

Museum summer hours

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society Museum will be open from 10 a.m. to noon Fridays and Saturdays through the summer. Normal hours, from Monday through Friday, will resume in September.

The museum is located at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

News-Sun 5/31/97

Trolleys traversed Sun City

In the early growing years of Sun City, public transportation was viewed more as a novelty than the necessity it has become for many of our residents who have given up driving.

In 1963, Del Webb put a trolley on the streets called the "Shop-Lifter." It carried residents and visitors from the Grand Shopping Center to stops around the neighborhood.

The Shop-Lifter was a 25-seat capacity open trailer, pulled by a Jeep. It was custom built, patterned after similar conveyances seen at such places as Disneyland. It was equipped with seats covered in all weather washable plastic and roofed over completely with a colorfully striped canvas canopy to afford passengers protection from the elements. The conveyance was equipped with passenger signals to indicate stops.

The Shop-Lifter was discontinued after two years.

At a meeting of the Sun City Merchants Association on Dec. 12, 1965, bus line operator Arthur Lambert of Youngtown announced bus service would start in January. Soon a gleaming red and white, 18-seat "mini-bus" appeared on the scene. The bus was owned by DEVCO but leased to Lambert who had the bus franchise in Sun City.

Lambert said at the time, "The bus will make the rounds of Sun City every hour from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. six days a week. If there are enough requests we will do a Sunday run."

Bus signs were to be erected every 1,200 feet along the streets. Monthly tickets were \$2; a single ride anywhere in town cost 25 cents.

DOWN

MEMORY

LANE

In 1969 the popular van was replaced by a new and larger Bluebird bus freshly painted in Sun City colors and sunburst. It had tinted windows, a chime system for disembarking passengers, 34-inch-wide plush seats and stainless steel handrails.

Sun Valley Lodge nurse, Margaret Steffek, the first person to climb on board the new bus, was given a lifetime pass. Mrs. Steffek would walk one-half mile to board the bus at 107th and Peoria avenues to ride to her job at the lodge.

Bus driver Tony Far brightened the already colorful bus with his cheerfulness, and passengers could count on him for a smile as he helped them on and off with their packages. Far occasionally strayed from the designated route to drop a handicapped passenger off at his or her door.

Although the buses were vital for those who needed transportation, there were ^{not} enough riders to make it a profitable operation. DEVCO had been subsidizing the service and with the company phasing out in Sun City, the bus service was stopped on June 30, 1982.

The Red Cross and Easter Seal Society operated vans for persons with medical appointments and for shoppers only when space permitted.

In the meantime Del Webb contracted the Molley Corp., of Scottsdale to initiate the Molley Trolley for a five-month period. The Molley Trolley was an open air vehicle, a colorful replica of late 1800's streetcars.

Two trolleys, "Molly" and "Dolly" gave residents free shuttles between shopping centers and businesses every 30 minutes from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. Cost of the service was borne by merchants who bought advertising on the sides of the trolleys.

The trolley service stopped for the summer after a five-months run, and was intermittent thereafter until it was eventually ended.

In May 1982, the Sun Cities Area Transit System (SCAT) adopted articles of incorporation and started service in September 1982.

From the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Bus service had its fits, starts in SC

8-3-97

In the early growing years of Sun City, public transportation was viewed more as a novelty than the necessity it has become for many of aging residents who should not be driving.

In 1963, Del E. Webb put a Jeep-pulled trolley on the streets called "The Shoplifter." It carried residents and visitors from the Grand Shopping Center to stops around the neighborhood.

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This Down Memory Lane article is adapted from the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Marinette preceded Sun City

There was a town here before Sun City. It was named

DOWN

MEMORY
L A N E

Marinette, located just south of the Santa Fe Railroad about half way between 107th and 99th avenues. Soon after the turn of the century,

R.P. Davie, a business adventurer from Marinette, Wis., impressed by development in the Valley, bought and leased thousands of acres between New River and the Agua Fria River. Davie developed deep well pumping systems to irrigate his acreage that lay beyond the newly constructed canal system.

The headquarters for Marinette Ranch actually became a small village with a store, boarding house and a few houses. Davie named it after the town in Wisconsin from which he came. The U.S. Post Office in Marinette, Ariz., opened in 1912, the year the territory achieved statehood.

Davie had big ideas for Marinette as a city of industrious farmers and tradesmen. But in 1918 he gambled the future of Marinette on growing sugar beets. The soil was not suited to beet-growing and he lost heavily. He sold his holdings in 1920 to the Southwest Cotton Co., a subsidiary of Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., and the town of Marinette became a company compound.

Since its population all worked for the Southwest Cotton Co., Marinette was a town of labor and sweat. Laborers, picking cotton by hand from mid-July to the following May, formed a stable community and had celebrations for baptisms, marriages and Saints Days. There was music and dancing, especially in "tent cities" clustered around the irrigation wells.

Like many old mining towns of the West, Marinette attracted its share of exploiters. The purveying of whiskey and women soon became a thriving business. Trains often stopped long enough to permit passengers to do some "shopping." A house of ill repute was said to have been located approximately at 112th and Grand avenues.

In 1936, the Marinette Ranch was sold to the J.G. Boswell Co., cotton farmers from Georgia. As machines replaced men in the fields, the population dwindled and the townsite was planted in cotton and lettuce.

This installment of Down Memory Lane is drawn from the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Sun City had drought in fire hydrants

Although fire hydrants are usually provided in planned communities, it was not until 1965 that anyone thought to consider them for Sun City.

In June 1965, H.K. Mulcahy, a local homeowner, noted that homeowners within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant could have insurance adjustments of their houses, saving \$6 to \$13 a year on insurance.

After learning from the water company that a hydrant could be installed for \$675, Mulcahy talked to his neighbors about the feasibility of raising enough money to install hydrants. Other homeowners expressed concern and he started collecting \$10 from those interested. By July 1, enough money had been raised to purchase one hydrant and the first one was installed at 107th Avenue and Sun City Boulevard.

Hydrants didn't become a real issue until Oct. 21, 1965, when an editorial in the News-Sun criticized the Sun City Home Owners Association for its inability to get fire hydrants installed throughout the community. Then things began to happen.

On Dec. 2, a resident writing humorously for his dog, had this letter printed in the News-Sun: "The past six months or so there has been considerable agitation going around here regarding the purchase and installing of fire hydrants. Maybe it means that we dogs may soon get to enjoy this thoughtful addition to the landscape."

Evidently, communitywide sentiment began to take effect. On Dec. 23, just in time for Christmas, the water company let a contract for 48 hydrants. The company would make the installation at no cost and Mr. Mulcahy was refunded \$675.

By July 1966 hydrants were installed in all of Sun City.

This Down Memory Lane is drawn from the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

DOWN

MEMORY
L A N E

Daily News-Sun - 9-20-97

DIAMOND KEEPSAKES

Historical society preserves Saints memories

By RUTHANN HOGUE

Staff writer

News-Sun
8-11-97

From the time the Saints came marching in to Sun City in 1966 until their departure in 1984, the popular women's softball team kept Sun City Stadium packed.

On Friday, fans and players alike will get a chance to recall the "good ol' days" when the Saints participate in a 6:30 p.m. Legends Game during the Women's Major Fastpitch Tournament in Rose Mofford Sports Complex in Phoenix.

Among those eager to attend the reunion game is Al Foster, vice president of finance of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

"That was my first impression of Sun City," said Foster, who regularly attended Saints games with his first wife, Esther.

"When I came here in 1973, that was the big deal. I was amazed when I saw those girls throw a ball like a man does."

In those days, the Sun City Saints, formerly the Phoenix Ramblers, played in Women's Pacific Coast League against teams such as the Orange Lionettes and the Fresno Rockets of California.

The team was transplanted to Sun City by Del Webb when the Ramblers lost their playing field in Phoenix. They moved to the Sun City Stadium, which was also used by the Milwaukee Brewers and other major-league baseball teams during the spring training season.

"I used to ride my bike down there to watch them play," Foster said of the Cactus League games. "I saw a lot of Brewers games."

He said he was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the Saints' play, particularly with player Suzie Gaw, a shortstop.

"I was impressed," Foster said. "She was a little gal and could really play and hustle."

These days, Foster enjoys showing off the historical society's extensive collection of Saints memorabilia — including a scrapbook that features a black-and-white photo of Gaw.

He's not the only one who enjoys reminiscing about the Saints.

"That display always draws a smile, even from a person who is least likely to go to a historical place," said Connie McMillin, secretary and member of the board of trustees with the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

"The Saints are an important part of our history here. Our collection is quite extensive."

Indeed.

From a ceramic figurine in the likeness of the Saints logo to trophies, uniforms, rain gear, red and gold pompoms, autographed game balls, scrap books and numerous programs, the historical society's collection is sure to please.

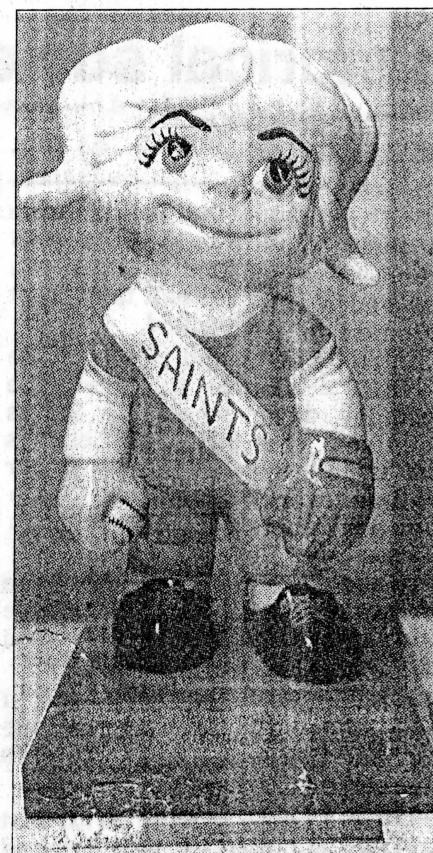
One room of the museum was once used to sell concessions at Saints games and later as a dressing room for players. It was donated by Del Webb, who originally used the room to hand out sales literature in Phase I in 1969. It was added onto the museum in 1991.

The items were donated by adoring fans and from the Sun City Saints Boosters Club.

"The people here really supported them because they just turned out in droves," said Phyllis Street, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

The exhibit is open from 10 a.m. to noon on Fridays and Saturdays in the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

OVER



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Connie McMillin, left, secretary of the Sun Cities Historical Society, holds a miniature promotional Sun City Saints bat. A ceramic version of the Sun City Saints logo, right, is on display in the society museum.

Daily News - Sun
10/18/97

Sun City was once home to 'Lizard Acres'

In the early 1940s, two gentlemen from Holbrook, E.S. Spurlock and J.C. Wetzler, were looking for a site to establish a cattle-feeding operation in the area along Dysart Road about a mile south of the intersection of Grand Avenue and Bell Road.

According to one report, Spurlock declared, "Jumpin' Jehosophat, this country is not fit for raising anything but lizards."

From that date on the name of "Lizard Acres" became the popular name for the ranch, more normally known as Circle One Livestock Co. In spite of the dismal prospects, the two men converted the 1,800-acre site into one of the leading cattle operations in the Southwest.

Mark Gemmill, foreman, with his wife and baby started out living in a trailer, but soon moved into a house where they would live for 30 years before it was bulldozed down to make way for Sun City West.

Cattle feeding pens were located on an 80-acre site. More than 1000 acres were in cultivation and produced corn, alfalfa, wheat, parsley, turnips, onions, artichokes, watermelons and other crops. Grain sorghum was chopped and stored in large underground pits to form silage, a succulent roughage to go along with grain for fattening. Grain was

stored in concrete storage bins with elevators.

Three irrigation wells and two domestic wells provided the water. These wells are now providing water for Sun City West. One large tank was adorned with a red lizard that was used as a weather vane. Several ponds to catch and store runoff water attracted migratory birds.

At its peak, in 1970, the Circle One Livestock Company had 40,000 head of cattle in its feedlots. At one time it shipped carloads of finished steers to a major supermarket chain for processing as its best beef specialties.

Forty-five employees living in three main houses and a dozen trailer homes made Lizard Acres their home. Lizard acres had no postoffice but did have a fire engine.

At Christmas time Mr. Wetzler gave bonuses and gifts to all employees and Christmas stockings to 125 children. The men had their own baseball team and competed with others around the Valley. Over the years the workers experienced floods, dust storms, tornadoes, haystack fires, lightening strikes, along with lizards, scorpions, snakes and one gila monster.

In 1971 the Del Webb Development Co. purchased an 11,000 acre tract for future developemnt. Lizard Acres was a part of that acreage.

This Down Memory Lane is drawn from the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

DOWN
MEMORY
LANE

Historical Society sets fall hours

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has resumed new hours in September.

The organization is now open 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. The museum, located in the first house built in Sun City is at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.

Highlights include trophies, photographs, programs and other memorabilia of the Sun City Saints — the girls' softball team that was popular from 1966 to 1984.

Call 974-2245.

S.C. Independent 9/2/97

~~as well~~ News - Sun 8/29/97
Society announces hours

The Sun City Historical Society will be open from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

The museum, housed in the first house built in Sun City, is located at 10801 W. Oakmont, Sun City.

Exhibits include a complete display of trophies, programs, photographs and other memorabilia of the Sun City Saints, the women's softball team that was popular for 18 years, 1966 to 1984.

For information, call 974-2245.

Thursday, September 4, 1997 THE WESTER Page C

Area Historical Society Sets Hours

Beginning Sept. 1, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society museum will be open 1:30 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.

Among other exhibits is a complete display of the trophies, programs, photographs and other memorabilia of the Sun City Saints, the girls softball team that was so popular for 18 years, 1966 to 1984.

Pamela Meyerhoffer, executive vice president of the Sun Health Foundation, will speak on "Sun Health: Past, Present and Future."

The public is invited.

Price of the luncheon is \$13. Reservations may be made by mailing a check made payable to SCAHS, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City, Ariz.

For information, call Phyllis Street, president, 584-0323, or Rae Mason, 933-6970.

Society hosts luncheon

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society annual luncheon and meeting will be at noon Nov. 13 at the Lakes Club in Sun City.

Sun Health executive addresses society

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold its annual luncheon and meeting at noon Nov. 13 at the Lakes Club in Sun City.

Pamela Meyerhoffer, executive vice president of the Sun Health Foundation, will discuss "Sun Health: Past, Present and Future."

The public is invited. Cost is \$13.

Reservations: 584-0323 by Nov. 5.

News - Sun 11/5/97

S.C. Independent
11/5/97

11/8/97
News-Sun

Early Sun Citians had soft spot for softball

From the beginning, it was evident that Sun Citians liked sports.

Golf became a major pastime immediately after Sun City's opening day, Jan. 1, 1960. Softball was the next attention-getter. Many men had come from cities and towns where softball leagues were regular summer fare.

Therefore, as soon as enough people had joined the new community, there was a built-in interest in starting a softball league. In 1962, the Del Webb Development Co. responded to the desires of its customers and provided a softball diamond in the Grand Avenue Shopping Center.

The park was not elaborate, but it did have a backstop made out of two-by-four inch lumber covered with poultry netting. Norman Siegman furnished the material and got some of the ball players to help put it together.

The field was no great shakes: it had lots of gravel and low-growing weeds with sand burrs that made fielding a hazardous adventure. Andy Wagner, among the 20 men who, back in 1962 organized the team, suggested the field be named "Webb Stadium." (No seats yet.)

DOWN

MEMORY
L A N E

The opening of Sun City's first softball season was on an early spring Sunday afternoon. "Attendance reached a record 27 (non-paying) spectators," was reported in the local paper. It was a tightly pitched contest with each team getting 20 hits.

The Sun City Giants edged out the Sun City Senior Yankees by a score of 14-11. According to the news article, "The final result was in doubt until the first ball was pitched."

In that same issue of the newspaper, the following appeared:

"Wanted — dead or alive — three ladies to umpire the softball games at the playgrounds on 109th Avenue near Grand Avenue. Knowledge of Jujitsu helpful — no salary, but umpires will be permitted to keep half of all bribes."

Siegman took the lead in organizing the first league of 42 men. Games were played on Sunday afternoons. The league operated that way for two years. While not a very auspicious beginning, it did nonetheless indicate the spirit that marked Sun City's sport enthusiasts.

It was this kind of enthusiasm that eventually resulted in the formation of a Senior Softball League years later, after Sun City Stadium had been built.

From the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Sun City caught fire on promotional spark

By DAVID MILLER
Staff writer

The builders of homes along Sun City's Oakmont Drive were worried — they didn't know if their development would register with buyers, settled as they were in the middle of nowhere.

Advertising posters screamed of a good deal: "The nation's first and only planned community," they said, listing home styles like "The Montecello" and "The Pickford."

Prices in those days were pretty fantastic — for little more than \$8,000 you could be the first on your block to own a prime Sun City lot.

The promotional push came on New Year's Day, 1960. Five homes stood in the 10000 block of Oakmont, along with a grocery store, a few other amenities and a whole lotta cotton.

The ads had been placed and the embryonic community of Sun City was publicized to the rest of the country. Now the developers had to hold their breath and wonder if their planned city would catch fire or become a footnote in Phoenix history.

They needn't have worried. Fortunately for the Del Webb organization, history smiled on their burgeoning business. The developers who planted themselves eight miles from Peoria learned that if you build a retirement community, they will come. And they will buy sight unseen.

"It took three days," said Jim Hawks, vice president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, a group headquartered in one of the original homes, at 10801 Oakmont Drive.

"They advertised their five homes," he said, "and 100,000 people showed up."

When the smoke cleared, buyers from across the country had ordered more than 230 homes, leading to a development rush.

Hawks calls the first Sun Citians "early pioneers," and in many ways they were, though they also proved to be astute investors: that original home listed for \$41,000 in 1989, when the historical society picked it up.

Sun City also expanded at the seams, growing from a literal cow town to a city with a population near 40,000.

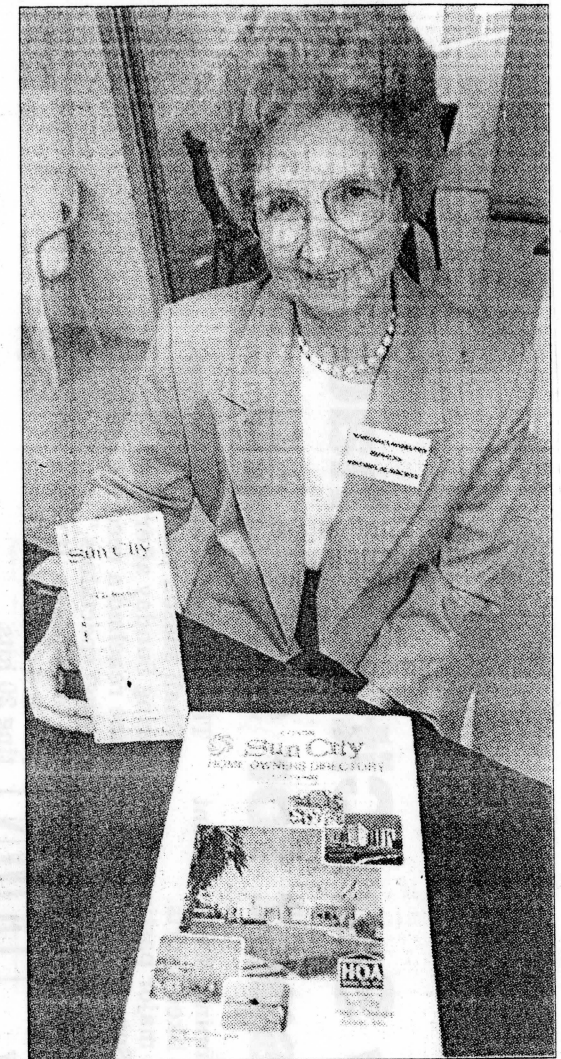
That boom began in a home measuring about 662 square feet, with two bedrooms, a kitchen and a carport. Its cost was \$8,500, though for \$600 more you could get an air conditioner — one of the swamp coolers prevalent in those days. An additional \$1,250 put you on the golf course.

Hawks points out, though, that while Del Webb eagerly promoted Sun City as the retirement burg of the future, he was careful not to push the sales pitch too far.

"He didn't sell on the basis of what he was trying to do," said Hawks. "He sold on the basis of what he had."

What Webb and the developers didn't have were some basic amenities, like a sewer system. But that soon changed. Seeing the incredible demand, he quickly ordered construction of a "lagoon-style" system, along with a host of other homes. A nine-hole golf course, naturally, was already in place.

The family of Margaret Hazelton, a hostess with the historical society, was one of those that bought into Sun City's development. She still lives in the "second phase," a wave of homes that went in after the initial rush. It's now within the city of Peoria.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Margaret Hazelton holds up the first Sun City phone book from 1961 where the phone numbers and addresses of 3,500 kindred spirits are listed. Next to her is the phone book from 1988.

Manning the society's office, she's happy to have a hand — and a home — in local history. "We kept it in the family," she said.



Gregory Harris/Daily News-Sun

Around 75 people attended the Marinette reunion at Le Rhone restaurant in Peoria on Saturday.

Erstwhile residents recall town of yore

By JANICE TARLETON
Staff writer

John and Amanda Durand's 50th anniversary celebration Saturday turned out to be a reunion of sorts.

The Saturday party at Le Rhone restaurant was perhaps the largest gathering of Marinette townfolk in years.

Marinette was the rural farming community located here B.S.C. — Before Sun City.

Amanda Durand introduced most of the 75 guests, weaving them into a historical narrative of "cotton-pickin' times," the town's rise, fall and eventual sale to Del E. Webb in 1959.

The story began in 1900, when R.P. Davie, a Wisconsin businessman, leased thousands of acres, dug a well and planted sugar beets. Like the folks who founded neighboring Peoria, he named the area after his hometown, Marinette.

By 1920 he "lost his shirt," and sold to the Southwest Cotton Co., a subsidiary of Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., which was using cotton fiber in the production of its new pneu-

matic tires, and Marinette became a company town, Amanda Durand said.

Her father, Oswaldo "Ozzie" Monreal, first came to the area in 1907, driving a delivery wagon and later a truck from downtown Phoenix to the Wagoner Farm. After gaining some merchandising experience working for Ike Diamond (Diamond's later sold to Dillard's), Monreal married Isabel Gay, and began managing the company store in Marinette. Isabel Monreal served as postmaster starting in 1930, and transferring to Youngtown in the mid-1950s.

Located where Furr's Cafeteria now stands, the store was the centerpiece of the town. Amanda Durand and other partygoers recalled the rough wood floor, getting pop out of a rustic machine, and watching train engineers leaning from their locomotives to grab the mailbag dangling from a pole as they rushed through town on nearby tracks.

She recalls the day in 1936 when two "gentlemen" walked into the store, bought some milk, coffee and bread. One was Col. Walter O. Bos-

► See Marinette townfolk, A5

Marinette townfolk reunite

◀ From A1

well, who asked her father to keep a look out for his brother, J.G., who would be arriving by train from Los Angeles.

The Boswells, an old Georgia cotton family, purchased the Marinette Ranch and turned it into a prosperous plantation.

In 1944, Amanda Durand went to work for the Boswell Company, weighing cotton at a gin, and in 1947 married John. The Durands had moved to Marinette in 1930 and the couple had attended school together in a little red brick school house near 107th and Grand avenues.

She recalls the day she first met Durand, a 13-year-old boy who arrived at the store on a shiny bicycle and wearing "beautiful" black, tailored trousers, a white shirt, red tie and gray Stetson hat. "He came to buy a candy bar," Amanda Durand said.

She admits she noticed the 1936 model bicycle first — "a beautiful new bike with mud guards and mirrors."

While collecting his money, Amanda asked his name and permission to ride the bike. He said no.

The couple still have the bike in the garage of their Sun City home.

It wasn't until Dec. 4, 1947, that the couple married in a formal ceremony. Amanda's brother, Oscar Monreal, and her sister, Henrietta Jacobs, who served as the best man and maid of honor, were present at Saturday's party.

In 1959, the Boswells sold the farm to Del E. Webb and Sun City was born. "I didn't cry," Amanda Durand told J.G. Boswell's son, J.G. "Jim" Boswell II, who flew in from Idaho for the anniversary party. Instead, she thanked him for his family's contribution to the area. "If it were not for J.G. Boswell Co. and Del Webb, none of us would be here," she said.

Other former Marinette residents at the party included Richard Gomez, a retired Peoria city official; Jewel Wood, wife of R.R. Wood, and her children, sons Kenneth and Pug, and daughter Margaret Carl; Angel Calzada, a postal worker for 38 years, who still delivers mail in the 99th Avenue and Bell Road area; Neil McLeod, son of Marinette school teacher, Mrs. McLeod; Frank Valencia, son of Ignacio Valencia, who taught Marinette children poetry and dancing; and Robert McMicken, son of Kenneth McMicken, who managed the dry lot cattle feeding for Boswell worldwide. McMicken Dam is named after him.

This summer, Durand, who once picked and ginned cotton from the Marinette fields, gathered cotton once again, this time for Amanda, his wife of 50 years, who arranged them in golden bowls. Just as cotton had been a main ingredient in life of the Durands and Marinette, it was featured in the centerpiece arrangements at their anniversary party.

Sun Cities Area Historical Society holds annual meeting



At the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Annual Meeting are Phyllis Street (l.), president, Historical Society, and Pamela Meyerhoffer, executive vice president/chief executive officer of Sun Health Foundation.

Photo, Marie Scotti

By Marie Scotti

The 12th annual fall membership meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society was held recently at the Lakes Club. It was on November 14, 1986, that the first annual meeting of the organization met at the Suntowner Restaurant in Sun City.

Pamela Meyerhoffer, executive vice president/chief executive officer of Sun Health Foundation, was the guest speaker. She presented a historical point of view of Sun Health as she sees it—the past, the Present and the Future.

Phyllis Street, president of the Historical Society summarized

See **HISTORICAL**, Page B12

HISTORICAL: Holds annual meeting, from Page B7

the year's activities. She said, "The Sun Cities have achieved International fame, not just because of the Pom Poms and Rhythm Tappers have served as our best Ambassadors and given us International advertising. It is because the whole concept amazes the rest of the world. We have had visitors from Japan, Korea, France, Germany and Denmark. Worth magazine a publishing an article about the Del Webb Corporation and have asked for materials from our archives. And just this past month two young women spent time researching in our resource center—one from Salzburg University in Austria, the other from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. Both were trying to discover what makes the Sun Cities such a success."

"Just trying to keep up with the ever-increasing amount of material we are accessing and to organize and file it is a never ending task," said Street. "We welcome volunteers to help with this. And then there is also the maintenance and preservation of the first Model House Del Webb built. 1959 doesn't seem like such a long time ago to some of us. But in 38 years things can happen to plumbing and major repairs had to be made last summer," said Street.

"As we approach the year 2000 and the 1st model home passes a 40th anniversary, we have dreams of it qualifying for status as a state historical society site. and eventually it will become a national historical site. We can dream of a nice boulder in the front yard with an impressive bronze plaque on it. We will keep on dreaming," said Street.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is located in the first model home built by Del Webb, opened to the public on January 1, 1960, the beginning day for the Sun City active retirement community. Through the generous support of the J.G. Boswell Foundation, Del Webb Corporation and other groups and individuals, the Historical Society purchased Sun City's first model home as headquarters in 1989. The home is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. It is open to visitors September thru May, Tuesday thru Friday 1:30-3:30 p.m., June, July and August, Friday & Saturday 10-12 noon. Group tours are welcome.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society was incorporated in 1986. It is organized as a non-profit corporation exclusively for civic and educational purposes. Its task is to collect and preserve the historical data of the Sun

Historical Society plans annual sale

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will conduct its annual Treasure and Trivia Sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 22 at its museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Those who wish to contribute items for the sale may drop them off at the museum between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. through Friday.

Proceeds from the sale help pay for operating costs of the museum.

The organization is housed in the first home built in Sun City and is one of five models from which home buyers selected their homes when Sun City first opened on Jan. 1, 1960.

Monday, Feb. 17, 1997 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

Society serves up treasures

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society's annual treasure and trivia

sale will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday in its museum at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Those who contribute items will receive tax exemption certificates if requested. Items may be delivered to the Historical Society from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. through Friday. Contributors who need help delivering articles may leave a message at 974-2568.

YARD, CARPORT &
GARAGE 5980

SUN CITIES AREA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TREASURES &
TRIVIA SALE

Sat., Feb. 22nd
8am-3pm
10801 Oakmont Dr.
Something for Everyone!

Thursday, Feb. 20, 1997 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

SUN CITIES AREA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Treasures/Trivia Sale
Saturday, February 22nd
8am to 3pm

10801 Oakmont Drive
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Friday, Feb. 21, 1997 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

SUN CITIES AREA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Treasures/Trivia Sale
Saturday, February 22nd
8am to 3pm

10801 Oakmont Drive
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Saints revered for dedication to Sun City

Among the many activities and diversions available to the early Sun City residents, one of the most popular was a girls softball team called the Sun City Saints.

For 18 years — 1966 to 1984, these girls provided delightful evening recreation and were seen by thousands of fans. They won numerous championships and raised a tremendous amount of money for local charities. The trophies they won fill a large space in the Sun Cities Area Historical Society museum at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City. Their accomplishments gave Sun City national and worldwide recognition.

It all started in 1965 when the owner of the team, then named the Phoenix Ramblers, decided to go out of business. When the Ramblers suddenly found themselves without a coach, owner, or ball park to play in, some of the players started searching for a new home. Eventually, word got to the Del E. Webb Development Co. in Sun City. To test the waters, the News-Sun published a questionnaire: "Should Sun City have a girls softball team?" The favorable response was immediate.

After negotiations between DEVCO and local business leaders, the team was adopted. Webb constructed a park on an alfalfa field on 108th

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Avenue where JB's Restaurant is now located. The new field was enclosed by a chain-link fence. Restrooms, a snack bar and three drinking fountains were provided. The Webb company's first sales office was moved to the spot where it was converted into a storage and dressing room. Rented bleachers seating 1,000 gave the team a chance to collect \$1 at the gate. Many games were sellouts and the treasury prospered.

While beer was not permitted, Coors Brewery erected a 32-foot by 8-foot scoreboard above the backfield fence. Numbers had to be put up by hand, the scorers working from a catwalk.

Total cost of the park was \$11,000. Webb people considered it one of the best investments they ever made. The goodwill generated was tremendous.

With a park in place and interest high, a catchy name was needed for these transplanted athletes. In a contest publicized in the News-Sun, 800 entries were logged. Several had suggested the Saints, but C.E. King's entry bore the earliest postmark, so he was declared the winner. He received a season pass to the games along with a gift certificate from the Grand Avenue Merchants.

The first home game for the Saints was played on May 7, 1966, with the Phoenix Rainbows taking the field. On May 20, the California Cuties took the field against the Saints. What made the occasion uproariously

funny was the fact that the "Cuties" were men dressed as women.

During the winter of 1966-67, a women's winter softball league was organized with teams from Phoenix, Prescott and Tucson; but the first regular season for the Saints began in 1967, the year the Saints Booster Club was organized.

Spurred on by bumper stickers and ads in the News-Sun, attendance was great. Meantime, the Saints started their practice of fund-raising by donating all gate receipts from one of their big games with the Tucson "Poor Souls" to Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital. A total of \$1,100 was given to the hospital.

By this time, the Saints had become a top attraction with special entertainment such as skydivers from the Phoenix Parachute Club making a soft landing on the outfield.

Concessions, first operated by a local restaurant, and then by the Saints themselves, sold hot dogs for 30 cents, soft drinks for 15 cents, and peanuts for 5 cents. Campfire Girls from Peoria and Youngtown eventually became the operators.

When the park was sold in 1970 to make room for the Suntowner Restaurant, the Saints moved to the high school field in Peoria, a temporary arrangement; Webb had started construction of the Sun City Stadium on 12½ acres north of the tracks on 111th and Grand avenues.

With the new park opening on July 4, 1971, the Saints scheduled out-of-state games with California, Colo-

Daily News-Sun

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1-10-98

Uncertainty marked Sun City's 1st day

Jan. 1, 1960, was a fateful day for the members of the staff of the Del Webb Development Co. New Year's Day had been set as the day the public was invited to inspect the first model homes in Sun City.

In addition to the shops, golf course, swimming pool, shuffleboard and other amenities, there were five carefully appointed homes.

"Will anybody come?" was the question on everybody's mind. The men whose reputations were on the line were not so sure. They had heard comments such as: "Who would buy a house 20 miles

DOWN

MEMORY
LANE

from nowhere among snakes and lizards?" and "Old people want to be with their families, not together in an isolated community."

Tom Breen had been reassuring Del Webb, at his Phoenix office, each time his boss called and asked "Do you know what you're doing out there?" Now, at the eleventh hour, he wasn't sure.

These men had worked frantically right up to New Year's Eve getting everything in place. After four years of study and research and an investment of upwards of \$2 million, the new venture was now ready for the crucial test.

The rules had been publicized — homes would be sold only to those 50 years of age or older (although one spouse could be younger), and

no children under college age would be permitted.

"When we got all through" Breen said, "it was 8 o'clock and we decided to go over to Manuel's Place in Peoria. Owen Childress, John Meeker and Jack Ford were present. Everybody was quiet. Owen Childress finally broke the ice: 'I'm worried' he said, 'how I'm going to get a 30-year mortgage on a guy who is 65 years old.'"

When the models finally opened at 8 a.m. on Thursday, New Year's Day, the rush was on. Sales were brisk that first day but nothing like the stampede the following Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Many people bought within an hour after arriving. A long line of people waited for hours to sign contracts with salesmen sitting on the floor of a tiny office.

The sales people ran out of official contracts and had to

resort to printed receipts hastily purchased from a store. A line of cars on that first Sunday afternoon extended for 2 miles along U.S. 60-70-89 (now Grand Avenue), the main Phoenix-Los Angeles highway.

Getting Del Webb out there was a problem. They had to drive him over the cotton fields and irrigation ditches. He finally got there and was greeting people, walking

through the sales office and having a great time.

In the 72-hour weekend, 237 houses were sold. Before the month was out, a total of 400 houses had all been sold and plans were under way for a second group of 675.

If there had been any doubt about the future of the project, there was none now.

This Down Memory Lane column is drawn from the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Original Sun City Model Home Houses Proud Historical Society

by Dick Kemp

Sun Life Nov. 1997

Florence Sears is a pioneer among pioneers. She and her late husband bought their Sun City home after reading a billboard, when sales were being made from a portable office. They were the eighth couple to accept keys to a finished house.

Florence helped Del Webb organize the first round of arts and crafts clubs and later worked for the firm in various "meet the public" roles. She called that magical period "fun and exciting."

Thirty-seven years later, Florence is a proud volunteer hostess at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society (SCAHS), based in the smallest of Sun City's five original model homes. The Kentworth, which contained 968 square feet (including carport and storage) and sold for \$8,500, was purchased by SCAHS in 1989

for \$41,500.

The headquarters is fondly known as "Our Old House."

Aspirations are not small

While SCAHS has a small headquarters, its aspirations are large. It is being used as a resource by the Sun Cities' Ambassadors, and members are increasingly sought as program speakers.

"Early this year a South Korean film crew spent three days producing a documentary," says two-time SCAHS president Jim Hawks.

"They had great difficulty understanding how private enterprise, not government, could produce communities the size and complexity of the Sun



HOW IT STARTED – Visitors to Sun City in its first years carried away literature like this: "Active Living for America's Senior Citizens."

Cities.

"Also, they were surprised at 80-year-olds laughing and playing, and in how residents and organizations help each other."

He says that the Sun Cities phenomenon, which U.S. sociologists in the early 1960s

predicted would never succeed, still draws worldwide attention. Not long ago, a student from the Netherlands spent a month researching the concept.

Jim is a former city planner who says not just anyone or any organization could have launched a Sun City.

Took someone with charisma

"It took someone with experience in all sorts of construction and planning, who knew government and other leaders, and who had charisma. Del Webb – the company and the man – fit that bill.

"It also required a partner with large contiguous landholdings, willing to work with Webb

Jim, Phyllis Street (president), Al Foster (treasurer) and Connie McMillan represent the speaker cadre that is receiving an increasing number of requests.

SCAHS welcomes more directors, more members and more funding.

"Also, anything that remotely resembles historical archives – or represents early Sun City – we would appreciate looking at before it is discarded," says Jim.

Sun City Saints collection

An example of a recent donation now on display is the scrapbook and trophy collection of the Sun City Saints, a women's softball team that garnered at least one national championship during the 1960s and '70s.

SCAHS has considered buying one more original model home. Even the largest, at 1,205 square feet including carport/storage, would not be cavernous.

Jim says that the first Webb models were soundly built and most have been enlarged in some way, including SCAHS's home base which was enlarged

Historical society slates spring lunch

The Sun Cities Historical Society will hold its annual spring meeting at noon April 15 at the Sun City West Community Services Building, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

A picnic lunch will be served. Cost is \$6.

Amanda Durand of Sun City will be the guest speaker. Mrs. Durand grew up in the town of Marinette, the town that once existed where Sun City now exists. Her father managed the Marinette Mercantile Store and her mother was the town's postmaster.

Reservations may be made by sending a check to the society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, 85351, by April 10.

Call 974-2568. The meeting is open to the public.

SC Independent 4/1/98

Meeting traces Sun City roots

Before Sun City there was Marinette.

Discover the history behind the retirement village at the annual spring meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society scheduled for noon April 15 in the Sun City West Community Service Center, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Amanda Durand, a former resident of Marinette, now the location of Sun City, will discuss her life in cotton picking times and Marinette's rise, fall and eventual sale to Del E. Webb in 1959.

Durand's father managed the Marinette Mercantile Store; her mother was postmistress of the town; and Durand herself later worked for the J.G. Boswell Company.

A picnic lunch will be served for \$6. For reservations, send a check to SCAHS, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, Ariz. 85351, or call 974-2568. Reservation deadline is April 10. Indicate a choice of ham or turkey sandwich. *News-Sun 4-3-98*

Historical Society appreciates support

■ On behalf of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, I wish to thank all those members and friends who contributed items for our recent yard sale. Also, thanks to the customers who purchased the items.

In spite of threatening weather, we took in nearly \$700. This is a valuable contribution to our operating budget used to keep open our little museum located in the first house built in Sun City at 10801 Oakmont.

Our all-volunteer staff is grateful for this support.

PHYLLIS STREET
PRESIDENT

Thanks for supporting museum sale

Speaking for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, I wish to thank all those members and friends who contributed items for our yard sale. Also, thanks to the customers who purchased the items.

Despite the threatening weather, we took in nearly \$700. This is a

valuable contribution to our operating budget used to keep open our little museum located in the first house built in Sun City at 10801 Oakmont. Our all-volunteer staff is grateful for this support.

*Daily News-Sun
3-24-98*

Phyllis Street
Sun City West

call 520-445-3122.

Museum sets summer hours

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society museum will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to noon, Fridays and Saturdays from June 1 through the end of August. Regular museum hours will resume September 1.

The museum is at 10801 Oakmont Drive, and is housed in the first residence built in Sun City.

Historical Society plans summer hours

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will reduce its operating hours for the summer, beginning June 1.

The society's museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive, will be open 10 a.m.-noon Friday and Saturdays. Regular hours resume Sept. 1.

The museum is located in the very first home ever constructed in Sun City.

Historical society slates spring lunch

The Sun Cities Historical Society will hold its annual spring meeting at noon April 15 at the Sun City West Community Services Building, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

A picnic lunch will be served. Cost is \$6.

Amanda Durand of Sun City will be the guest speaker. Mrs. Durand grew up in the town of Marinette, the town that once existed where Sun City now exists. Her father managed the Marinette Mercantile Store and her mother was the town's postmaster.

She will talk about her life in Marinette and discuss the town's rise and fall, as well as its eventual sale to Del E. Webb in 1959.

Reservations may be made by sending a check to the society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, 85351, by April 10.

Call 974-2568. The meeting is open to the public.

Sun Cities Independent 4-14-98

Sun Cities Independent 5-27-98

Feedlot causes stink in Sun City's early days

News-Sun 3-20-98

In 1966, with Sun City growing by leaps and bounds, construction of houses had reached southward to Cumberland Street — toward a cattle feedlot located at Olive and 111th avenues. Most days the odors from the feedlot wafted over Sun City. At first the outcries were barely audible, but by mid-1967 they were heard in increasing volume.

The Homeowners Association advised the citizens to sue Spur Feedlot Co. and gave \$1,000 to the cause. By December 30, suits were filed totaling \$464,165. The litigants claimed the vile odors decreased the value of their property from \$1,000 up to \$8,500. "Manure accumulates daily on the feedlot," the claims stated, "and the vile, stinking, nauseating odors are car-

DOWN

MEMORY
L A N E

ried by air currents over the nearby residents."

The odors began to interfere with performances at the Sun Bowl. Seventy-five additional suits were initiated and by June 1968, total lawsuits amounted to \$2,133,283. And when word got around that an estimated 58,000 tons of manure was stored in the vicinity of Olive and 111th avenues, additional suits brought the total up to \$4,767,171.

In November it was announced that a trial would take place March 31, 1969. An air pollution bill was introduced in the state Legislature in March 1969. Judge Froeb postponed the trial and set a new date for Feb. 20, 1970.

In the meantime, the Del Webb Development Co. filed an injunction to close the feedlot, contending that it could not fully develop its property because of the fecal odors emanating from the Spur feedlot — a matter of substantial financial loss.

In September 1970, Superior Court Judge Chatwin ruled the feedlot a public nuisance. Spur Co. was ordered to stop operating on all its land located within one-half mile of Olive Avenue by Dec. 31, 1970.

Spur appealed the judge's decision, contending that money only was involved in the case and that they would lose at least \$2 million in the move while Webb needed the move to sell more houses.

In February 1971, Judge Chatwin ruled that the operation of the feedlot did not grant the right to maintain a public nuisance. He also stated that the feedlot was a breeding place for "flies, rodents, mosquitoes and other insects capable of carrying and transmitting disease."

The Arizona Supreme Court entered the case and granted Spur a stay of the phase-out. The court then acceded to Webb's request that no more cattle would be permitted to

enter the lot. The final decision, however, would be delayed until the fall of 1971.

The Spur Co., concluding that the long delays were proving too expensive and that the final decision would be adverse, agreed to move if Webb would pay the bill.

The litigation continued until the Supreme Court in March 1972 ordered Webb to pay the cost of the feedlot move. The cattle were moved that month. The Superior Court was charged with the determination of cost.

One year passed with the courts making no decision. The suits finally ended in June 1974 when a mutual agreement between Spur and DEVCO was reached out of court. What recompense was agreed upon is unknown but, definitely, dollars prevailed over "scents."

From the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Sun City Sun Dancers leave notable legacy

In June 1960, Tom Austin of the Del Webb Development Co. asked the Arizona Federation of Square and Round Dance Teachers and Instructors to recommend a square dance teacher to come to Sun City and try to get a square dance group organized. The Federation recommended Alex Nagy of Glendale.

Nagy, with his wife Gertrude came and on Sept. 29, 1960, organized a beginners' class at what was then called the Community Center, now known as Oakmont Recreation Center. Ten couples made up this first class. The club named itself the Sun City Pa's and Taws. The first officers were Warren Bowser, president; Lil Mueller, vice president; and Olive Cook, secretary.

Training proceeded through the fall and 10 couples completed the course, graduating in January 1961. Because of additions and dropouts, the graduates were not all the same couples who had started the class the fall before.

A second class started on Feb. 1, 1961, with 16 couples. As would be expected, some left for the summer. Others came in as new people moved into the new retirement community. Some evenings only three couples showed up. When this happened, Alex and Gertrude joined in to make up one square so that the class could continue. By graduation time 10 couples completed the course and graduated on May 17, 1961.

A new beginners class started in September 1964 at the Town Hall Center, now the Fairway Recreation Center. This group was called the "Sun City Twirlers" (not to be confused with a club by that name that was started in 1974 to accommodate

advanced dancing and used the Sun Dial Recreation Center).

In 1968 DEVCO wrote a letter to the officers of the two clubs asking them to combine into one club. At a dinner at the Melody Lane Restaurant the two clubs united and from among several suggestions chose the name "The Sun City Sun Dancers."

In 1968 the club moved to Town Hall South, now the Mountain View Recreation Center with 29 couples enrolled.

From the beginning in 1960 to graduation time in 1970 Nagy missed only one dance and that was because of illness.

During this time enrollment grew to more than 200 couples. The club participated in many community activities, including entertaining residents at Sun Valley Lodge by sending one or two squares there once a month. Residents enjoyed the demonstrations and often joined in by clapping their hands in time with the music.

Also one square (four couples) demonstrated square dancing at each of the "chuck wagon dinners," DEVCO's treat for the visitors who had spent a week in the vacation apartments. And on one occasion, on request, one square went to Tempe to participate in a demonstration for students of Arizona State University.

Some of the fall dances were held at Heading Ranch, Del Webb's 1,100-acre facility near Lake Pleasant before the stage and floor were wiped out by the big flood of 1980.

While the record is incomplete, some of the club's presidents were Bret Young, Roy Falino, Albert Foster, Frank Foote and Robert Nuss.

The Sun Dancers club went out of business in the early 1980s and has been replaced by other dance groups.

From the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

DOWN
MEMORY
LANE

Museum highlights china painting

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is featuring a special exhibit arranged by members of the Sun City China Painting Club.

An opening reception will be held 10 a.m.-noon June 27 at the historical society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City. Admission open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

The exhibit will include plates, pitchers, bowls, plaques and pictures decorated with floral patterns, animal life and original designs. Also on display will be memory books the club has compiled highlighting their activities.

Club members have been active since the organization was formed in April 1966. Classes are held from September through May at the Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave., Sun City.

For more information on dates and times, call Phyllis Street, president, 584-0323.

S. C. Independent 6-24-88

News-Sun 6-13-88

Post office springs from newborn center

Del Webb's Sun City became an officially recognized community in the U.S. Postal guide on April 4, 1960. On that date a contract substation was opened in a yet-to-be-used space in the newborn Grand Avenue Shopping Center. The rent was \$1 a year.

The occasion was commemorated by an issuance of a multi-colored special cacheted cover under the sponsorship of the Arizona Society of Topical Philatelists and DEVCO.

The inauguration was rather unusual in that the post office came into being before anyone actually lived in the area. (The first home delivery was made to W. Wendell and Emilie Fraser on April 10, 1960). The "Sun City, Arizona" postmark

DOWN

MEMORY
L A N E

was the first new postmark in the state in several years. For DEVCO it was a marvelous public relations vehicle as stacks of mail were regularly posted to prospective residents throughout the country.

The new postal station's opening was a philatelic holiday for souvenir hunters. Several hundred collectors were on hand to witness the opening ceremonies. Phoenix Postmaster William J. Mason, representing Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield, delivered the key to the post office to Thomas G. Austin, Webb's activities coordinator and acting postmaster on this special day.

An estimated 3,000 first day covers were serviced, with Arizona Gov. Paul Fannin being sent the first piece of mail to receive the Sun City postmark. A special cachet also went to President Eisenhower. The first day covers contained a greeting card telling briefly the story of a model

retirement community which has grown "from meadowland to metropolis in just 92 days."

The ceremonies were concluded at the community center (now Oakmont Recreation Center) where postmasters from neighboring communities and other guests were honored at a luncheon.

Tom Austin held the technical contract for the station but Mrs. Mary Garretson served as chief clerk as a paid full-time employee trained by the post office.

"My husband and I came out here the first day Sun City opened on Jan. 1, 1960, to look around and decided to buy a house," Mrs. Garretson said. "The salesmen were so busy handling a line of eager buyers they asked us to come back the next day. When we came back I casually mentioned that I hated to give up my job in Phoenix. The next day Webb called and asked if I would like to work for them. That is how I became

the first postal clerk when they opened the station."

Mrs. Garretson and her husband took delivery of the 85th home on May 12, 1960, more than a month after the post office opened.

The station was at first only a general delivery branch where everyone had to step up to the window and ask for the daily mail. Eventually, a few boxes were supplied but not nearly enough. Pressure was put on the postal authorities to begin home delivery, a move that brought about one of Sun City's first community squabbles.

At first it was ruled that delivery would be made to curbside boxes and many people invested in them. Others wanted door-to-door delivery, insisting curbside boxes were unsightly and not safe. Letters by the dozens were sent to postal headquarters in Denver in which residents expressed their preference. Youngtown residents joined the

fight. Door-to-door delivery was approved for those who wanted it and curbside for others. It was up to the residents to make the decision.

On Feb. 2, 1962, groundbreaking ceremonies took place for a permanent post office on the southwest corner of 103rd and Coggins (now the Menke Funeral Home.) The new facility was classified as a branch of the Phoenix post office.

As Sun City expanded northward, the existing post office was no longer large enough to handle the increased volume of mail and parking was limited. On Memorial Day, May 30, 1976, the present day postal center was opened at Bell Road and 98th Avenue. It was no longer a classified branch of the Phoenix post office but a recognized full-service, first-class office on its own right with 25-30 routes.

From the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

News - Sun 6-20-98

1st house exudes history

The first house that was built in Sun City, and is now the museum of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, is located at 10801 Oakmont drive. With four other houses this house was a model for inspection by visitors who appeared on Jan. 1, 1960, the first day Sun City was opened to the public.

The house was known as The Kentworth, Model number 1-C. It contained 662 square feet of living space plus 303 square feet of storage and carport. It consisted of living room, two bedrooms, one bathroom, kitchen and dining area with attached carport and storage room. The asking price was \$8,500 plus \$600.00 for air conditioning and \$1,250 for golf course adjoining.

After serving as a model for more than a year the house was purchased by N.C. Wagers and his wife Marie. The Wagers lived in Sun City at the time and bought the house as an investment. In 1962 John G. and Chloe McDonald bought the house

from the Wagers.

The McDonalds made several changes to the house and by 1965 had enclosed the patio, extending it across the back of the house. The result was a family room plus an extension of the back bedroom with a bath between the two rooms.

The McDonalds occupied the house until 1984. Jean Painter then purchased the house and lived in it until 1988.

When the house came on the market in 1988 it caught the attention of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. For several years a small group of Sun Citians including Glenn Sanberg, Jane Freeman and several others had been collecting and saving materials about the Sun Cities in order that this story would not be lost. They worked out of their homes, using space where they could find it. Lester Merydith, Chairman of the building committee for the Society, was asked to look into the possibility of purchasing the building. Funds from several sources became available and the Society purchased the house in 1989 for \$41,500.

To make the building suitable for a museum the dividing walls and the extra bath were removed from the

patio area and the area was converted to an office and meeting room. Additional air conditioning was added with units donated by Goettl Air Conditioning.

The original sales office (a very small building) was attached to the house in June 1991.

Dorothea McDonald Wagers of Brush, Colo., daughter of the McDonalds is an active member of the Historical Society. Barbara Wagers, granddaughter of the McDonalds of Bennett, Colo., is also a member as is Susan Miller, another granddaughter, of Greenwood Village, Colo.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a non-profit corporation. Its officers are all volunteers at the museum. The museum is open to the public from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays throughout the year except during the summer months — June through August — when hours are 10 a.m. to noon Fridays and Saturdays.

Those who wish may join and become partners in preserving Sun City's unique history.

From the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

DOWN

MEMORY

LANE

News - Sun 7-23-98

8 clubs served as centerpiece for organized recreational activity

It didn't take long for early Sun Citians to show their desire to do something besides sitting in the sun and counting their blessings.

According to T.C. Austin, activities coordinator for the Del E. Webb Development Co., the interest shown in the recreation facilities "far exceeded expectations."

By April 1960, three months after the first model homes were opened for inspection on New Year's Day, eight clubs had been organized. These first eight were Lapidary Club, Ceramic Club, Sewing Club, Swimming Club, Woodworking Club, Jewelry and Copper Club, Lawn Bowling Club and Shuffleboard and Croquet Club.

There was no organization or mechanism in place then such as the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. as we have now and no plan to pay for maintaining the facilities that were already in place. "We realize that an overall and complete program will take time," Austin said. "Therefore, to help get the machinery started DEVCO will assume all maintenance costs until June 1,

1960."

Beginning June 1, membership was \$1 per person per month. This entitled members to use the community building (now the Oakmont Recreation Center) swimming pool, arts and crafts building, card rooms, shuffleboard, croquet and lawn bowling courts.

The membership dues would go toward defraying the costs of maintaining the buildings. It was anticipated that the amount collected would not be sufficient to cover all costs; therefore, DEVCO agreed to make up the difference.

These membership dues did not include the cost of supplies and materials used in the arts and crafts clubs. Each club could charge a fee as needed to cover such costs if they chose. This would be in addition to the \$1 membership dues. Golf course privileges were not included in these membership dues.

Each of the first eight clubs held its own meeting during the month of May.

At this meeting members appointed a representative to serve on an overall governing body called the Activity Club that would look after the facilities and coordinate the activities of the various clubs. The facilities included space and equip-

ment needed for a functioning activity. The clubs would be responsible for their care and replacement and for the training and social part of the clubs' agenda.

Emmett Williams, Ralph Robuck Sr. and Herbert J. Huebach, residents of Sun City, had consented to act as an interim Advisory Committee until the Activity Club was established.

A general meeting was held in June 1960 followed by an election of officers for the Activity Club.

This was the beginning of organized recreational activity tied in with home ownership that was the fulfillment of Del Webb's dream of active retirement. It set the tone for a future relationship between the clubs and some sort of an organization to look after the facilities.

And it exemplified Mr. Webb's belief that retirees should have the opportunity to be independent in developing a lifestyle they desired.

Of course major changes came later: It was a venture into uncharted territory and required new, untried tactics. And the need for action was immediate because home buyers were standing in line to buy.

From the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

DOWN

MEMORY

LANE

Historical Society holds China painting exhibit

During June and July the Sun Cities Area Historical Society is featuring a special exhibit arranged by members of the Sun City China Painting Club. On Saturday, June 27, from 10 a.m. to noon, a reception will be held with members of the China Painting Club present to greet guests. The public is invited. Light refreshment will be served.

The Club's exhibit includes plates, pitchers, bowls, plaques and pictures decorated with floral patterns, animal life and original designs. Also on display are memory books they have compiled showing their activities.

The China Painting Club has

been active since organization in April, 1966. Its workshop is currently located in the Fairway Recreation Center where it holds classes from September through May.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, will be open Friday and Saturday mornings for visitors in June, July and August from 10 a.m. to noon.

Exhibit Reception — Exhibit by Sun City China Painting Club, including plates, pitchers, bowls, plaques and more. Reception is from 10 a.m.-noon. Exhibit is on display through July. Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City. 974-2564.

JUNE 24-30, 1998 — SUN CITY WEST INDEPENDENT — PAGE 11

Museum highlights china painting

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is featuring a special exhibit arranged by members of the Sun City China Painting Club.

An opening reception will be held 10 a.m.-noon June 27 at the historical society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City. Admission open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

The exhibit will include plates, pitchers, bowls, plaques and pic-

tures decorated with floral patterns, animal life and original designs. Also on display will be memory books the club has compiled high-

lighting their activities.

Club members have been active since the organization was formed in April 1966. Classes are held

from September through May at the Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave., Sun City.

For more information on dates and times, call Phyllis Street, president, 584-0323.

First home now museum site

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society Museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The museum is located in the first model home built by Del Webb in Sun City, 10801 Oakmont Dr.

Memorabilia of early Sun City and Sun City West, including early city maps, model home plans, photographs and trophies of local clubs, will be displayed at the museum.

For more information, call 974-2568.

News-Sun

Thursday, September 10, 1998 THE WESTER Page B3

Historical Society sets winter hours

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is now open 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. This schedule will continue from September through May, 1999. The museum is located in the first model home Del Webb built in Sun City, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive.

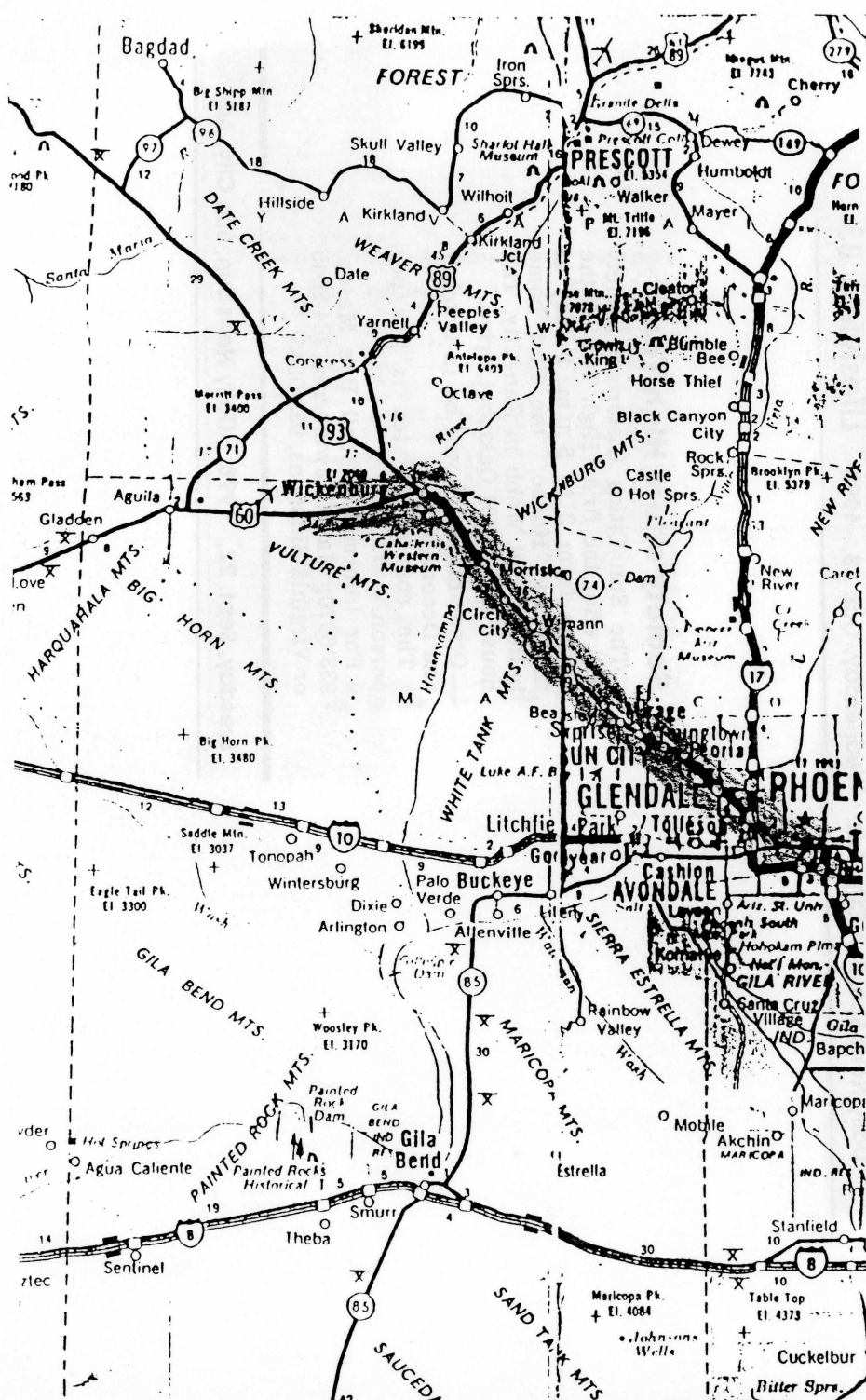
Displays include memorabilia of Sun City and Sun City West, early city maps, model home plans, photographs, trophies of local clubs.

PAGE 2 — SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT — SEPTEMBER 9-15, 1998

Historical society resumes fall hours

The Sun Cities Historical Society has resumed its fall and winter hours. The society's headquarters and museum, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, in the first model home built in Sun City by the Del Webb Corp., are open 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Displays include memorabilia of Sun City and Sun City West, early city maps, model home plans, photographs, trophies and historical information. Call 974-2568.



SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU

TO THE FALL MEMBERSHIP LUNCHEON AND MEETING

DATE: Friday, November 6, 1998

PLACE: Lakes Club
10484 Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City
(Use East side banquet entrance)

TIME: Luncheon served at 12:00 noon.
Followed by brief business meeting & program

PRICE: \$13.00 per person (includes gratuity)

PROGRAM: Albert Tudor, author of "Along the Old vulture Road".
Enjoy a tour, with slides, along the old Vulture Road
as this Sun City author relates adventurous tales of
his research and the history of people and early places
along the corridor known today as Grand Avenue.

Books available for sale (\$11.95). Mr. Tudor will
autograph your copy.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED - DEADLINE: NOV. 2

Make check, for \$13.00 per person, payable to SCAHS
Mail to: 10801 Oakmont Dr. Sun City, AZ 85351

How Old Vulture Road became Grand Avenue

A Fall Membership Luncheon and Meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society will be held on Friday, Nov. 6, Noon, at the Lakes Club in Sun City. Cost is \$13 per person.

The program will feature Albert Tudor, author of "Along the Old Vulture Road."

Reservations are required with a Nov. 2 deadline. For information, call 974-2568.

SC'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY, annual fall luncheon meeting, Nov. 6, guest speaker, Albert Tudor, SC author of the recently published book, "Along The Old Vulture Road." Cost: \$13. Reservations: by Nov. 2, SCAHS, 10801 Oakmont Drive, SC, 85351. Information: 974-2568 or 584-0323.

SCW ROTARY CLUB, 12:10 p.m., SCW Community Services Bldg.,

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Wednesday, Oct. 28, 1998 Lifestyles B3

Society offers High Tea

The Sun Cities Historical Society will offer the first "High Tea" of the season from 2 to 5 p.m. Friday at "This Old House," the first home built by Del Webb in Sun City. The house is at 10801 Oakmont Drive.

Other high teas will be in October and December.

The cost of the tea is \$10 per person.

For information, call Rae Mason, 933-6970; Mary Hawthorne, 584-2045 or Virginia Simmons, 933-0565.

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 1998 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

SHARE OUR MEMORIES

TUESDAY, NOV. 10, 1998 @ 1:00 PM

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10801 OAKMONT

Please join the Sun City Poms, the nation's
first senior performing group, as they formally
dedicate their new display case containing
20 years of awards and memorabilia.

Refreshments

Entertainment by the **SUN CITY POMS**

Tours of the Historical society

The SUN CITY POMS are sponsored by:
BLUE CROSS / BLUE SHIELD of ARIZONA

Historical society plans annual lunch

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold its annual fall luncheon meeting at noon Nov. 6 at the Lakes Club, 10484 Thunderbird Blvd.

The program will feature Al Tudor of Sun City, author of the recently published book, "Along the Old Vulture Road."

Mr. Tudor will discuss the history of people and the early places along the West Valley corridor known today as Grand Avenue.

The public is invited. Cost is \$13.

Reservations: 974-2568 or 584-0323.

NOVEMBER 4-10, 1998 — SUN CITY WEST INDEPENDENT — PAGE 13

Sun City Poms memorabilia now on display

The Sun City Poms dance group has purchased a lighted display case and presented it to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, complete with Poms memorabilia.

Formal dedication of the display case will be held at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 10, at the Historical Society headquarters at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

The house will open at 1 p.m. for visitors to tour the museum before the final dedication. Historical Society board members and host and hostesses will be on hand to greet people and explain displays.

Following the dedication guests will be invited to the adjacent Oakmont Recreation Center where the Poms will perform a dance program followed by refreshments. The invitation is open to everyone.

New case displays Poms memorabilia

A display case highlighting the history of the Sun City Poms and the many awards earned by the troupe will be formally dedicated Nov. 10.

The case is located at the Sun Cities Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Ave., Sun City.

The Poms will be on hand for the dedication, which begins at 1:30 p.m.

Refreshments will be served and tours of the Historical Society will be available beginning at 1 p.m.

NOVEMBER 4-10, 1998 — SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT — PAGE B7

SHARE OUR MEMORIES

TUESDAY, NOV. 10, 1998 @ 1:00 PM

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10801 OAKMONT

Please join the Sun City Poms, the nation's
first senior performing group, as they formally
dedicate their new display case containing
20 years of awards and memorabilia.

Refreshments

Entertainment by the **SUN CITY POMS**

Tours of the Historical society

The SUN CITY POMS are sponsored by:
BLUE CROSS / BLUE SHIELD of ARIZONA

A Showing of the Creative Spirit of Sun City...

The Paintings of

Alfred "Fred" Kabica

On display at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Dec. 28, 1998 will be the work of Alfred Kabica--- Sun City Artist. Kabica retired to Sun City in 1965 bringing with him an artist's eye and a love for the West. He is perhaps most well known for his 75 foot mural "From Evolution Through Progress to Where?" on display at the Sundome. His family presents a retrospective showing of personal works which have kept his spirit alive.

Monday, December 28 1998

10:00am to 2:00pm

Showing at the

Sun Cities Area Historical Society

10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City

1 Block South of Grand Ave. Off 107th Ave.

Meet the daughter of the artist,
Grace Nix Havlik and her family
at this very special event.

For information ... 602-972-4871.

OR 602-974-2568

The exhibit will be on view through mid-January
Tues. - Fri. 1:30-3:30 and also Sat. Jan. 2 and 9. 10:00 - 3:00

ALFRED KABICA EXHIBITION

Guided Tour of Exhibits by location and number

Front Window

1. Roadrunner (Oil on wooden board)
2. Sweet Peas in Crystal Bowl (Oil on board)

Living Room

1. Photo of Fred and Della Kabica at the dedication of the mural at Sundome. 1980
2. "The Play of Line and Color for Our Younger Set."
(Bulletin board display)
3. Pine Tree Lined Road in Mountains
4. Winter Sunset by Stream
5. Arizona Laborers Picking Cauliflower
6. Snow Covered Trees and Road 1956
7. Pink Roses in Bowl 1966
8. Framed "Town Hall Center" water color
9. Young Son, Dick, Fishing Marquette Park, IL. 1945

BEDROOM

1. "The Eternal Triangle" 1955
2. Waterfall in Summer 1951
3. "Men will poison and evil spread
Till he no more the earth can tread". 1957
4. Red Sails in the Sunset
5. Early Summer--Willows & Creek
6. Geometric Study of Forest 1960
7. Starved Rock, Illinois 1949
8. Midwest Fall by Creek 1959
9. Red Dahlias in Crystal Vase 1950
10. 2 Scrapbooks

KITCHEN

1. First showing of Sundome Mural information, April, 1980

CONFERENCE ROOM

1. Lonely Woman in Bar
2. Light House & Sailboat (oil on board)
3. Sedona (Framed, oil on board)
4. Calligraphy examples
 - Christmas greeting poster, Town Hall, Sun City, 1966
 - Sign for library, United Church of Sun city
5. Canada Dry Ginger Ale Ad, 1928
6. White Tank Park (pen and ink) 1970
7. Christmas greetings from artist's home
8. "What Is a Boy?" (dedicated to 5 grandsons) 1953
9. Wedding anniversary card to friends 1976
10. Indiana State Park Dunes (water color)
11. Road in Spring (water color)
12. Indiana State Park Dunes (framed oil)
13. White Tank Park (framed water color) 1955
14. Midwest Fall Scene (framed water color) 1949
15. Summer Scene by River (framed water color) 1949
16. Bavaria, Germany (framed water color) 1973
17. Saalfeld, Germany (framed colored pencil) 1973
18. Winter Scene (framed water color)
19. Calligraphy work--Sketch & completed work 1975

Arts in Brief

Historical society exhibits works of local resident

A special exhibition of the art of Alfred Kabica will be featured at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society beginning Dec. 28 and continuing through mid-January.

Mr. Kabica retired to Sun City in 1965 and is best known for his 75-foot mural on display at the Sundome Center for Performing Arts.

An opening reception will be held 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 28. Refreshments will be served.

The exhibit will feature oil paintings, watercolors, calligraphy works, posters, scrapbooks and illustrated stories.

The exhibit may be viewed 1:30-

3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. On Jan. 2 and 9, the exhibit will be open 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City. Call 972-4871 or 974-2568.

Thursday, December 24, 1998 THE WESTER Page B5

Sundome muralist exhibit at the Historical Society

A special exhibition of the art of Alfred Kabica will be featured at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society beginning Monday, Dec. 28, and continuing through mid-January. Kabica retired to Sun City in 1965 and is most well known for his 75-foot mural on display in the Sundome in Sun City West. A reception will be held the opening day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with members of Kabica's family present to describe his career and involvement in the local community. Refreshments will be served.

The exhibition will include approximately 15 oil paintings, a similar number of watercolors, numerous items of Kabica's calligraphy work, stories with illustrations, designed for his grandchildren, posters and scrapbooks.

This art exhibit will be open for viewing during the regular hours, Tuesday through Friday, 1:30 to 3:30, and also on Jan. 2 and 9 from 10 to 3. The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Dr., Sun City. (one block south of Grand Ave. off 107th.)

SC Players on stage since 1961

AL
By ROBERT FOSTER *News-Sun - 1-5-99*

In February 1961, 10 Sun Citizens who were interested in theater and forming a players' group, met at the Community Center, now Oakmont Recreation Center. Names of all 10 are not available, but some of those present were Tom Austin, activities director for the Del E. Webb Development Co., and Ralph Robuck, Julian AmeLung, Roy Litzsen, Ruth Compton and Fred Millard.

After several informal meetings and additional members joining, the group went to work and on May 9, 10 and 11, 1961, gave its first production. It was called the "Sun City Jubilee Minstrel." Julian AmeLung, who had been director of the New York Symphony Orchestra, served as musical director. The show was presented at Town Hall Center, later named Fairway Recreation Center.

Irene McAnerney was stage director. Stage personalities Elsie Cooper, Charles Barron and George Migny played major roles. There was a male quartet consisting of Roy Litzsen, Karl Smith, Ernie Humphrey and Henry Willey with Charles Barron acting as interlocutor.

Lou Henderson's orchestra accompanied the singers and the Sun City Merry Makers combo played during intermission. Fred Willard was business manager.

DOWN

MEMORY
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Admission was a donation of \$1. More than \$750 was cleared and was donated to the Kiwanis Club, which used the money to buy oxygen equipment for use by all doctors in Sun City and Youngtown and the Rural Metro and Peoria Volunteer fire departments. Any remaining funds were used for underprivileged children.

With this kind of success the group was encouraged to become a formal organization and on May 31, 1961, about 30 members met and voted to be an official chartered club. They named it The Sun City Players.

The first officers were Julian AmeLung, president; Albert Bartolain, vice president; Linnie Smith, secretary; and Betty Duerre, treasurer.

The club soon doubled in size. At first, monthly meetings were at Oakmont and productions were staged at the Town Hall Center. Beginning in 1974, productions were moved to the Mountain View Recreation Center auditorium. The first performance at Mountain View on Nov. 18, and 19, 1974, was "Sheep on the Runway."

By fall 1977, membership had grown so large that the monthly meetings were also moved to Mountain View. By 1984, membership had reached 640 members. At the same time the size of the audience also grew.

The growth of The Players has been the result of combined efforts of a number of members. If any one person could be singled out it would

be Jack Kinsey, a veteran player from Detroit who gave his time, energy and know-how to move the group forward toward the fine performances typical of the club throughout its time.

The Players have had at least one production every year since the original minstrels. Beginning in 1967, The Players produced two major shows a year. Some of the more familiar titles include "Come Blow Your Horn," "Born Yesterday," "The Desk Set" and "My Three Angels."

In 1976 the group presented its first musical, "Guys and Dolls," with Alice Rosenbluth as director and set designer and Nate Rosenbluth in charge of music. Other musicals followed, including "Damned Yankees," "South Pacific," "Kiss Me Kate," "Oklahoma" and "Pajama Game."

Money from ticket sales has been used to improve the facilities at Mountain View, including the sound system, curtains and drops and spot lights, plus storage space at the back of the building. And members of The Players give generously of their time, providing readings, skits, plays and programs for church groups, nursing homes and many other clubs.

The current officers of the club are Betty Hurley, president; Al Blaschke, vice president; Mary Todd, corresponding secretary; Helen Keller, recording secretary; and John Strohmeyer, treasurer.

From the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Early days in Sun City West often lonesome

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the summer of 1978, George and Loise Copes of Baltimore were planning to attend a convention in Phoenix. Loise had just retired as postmaster of Brooklandville, a Baltimore suburb, and George was retired. Following is Loise Copes' narration as told to Phyllis Street, president of the Sun Cities Historical Society. Mrs. Copes, a charter member, was the only resident of Sun City West on the first board of trustees.

We had seen an ad in the AARP magazine that told about apartments in Sun City, rented by the Del Webb Development Co. A week in one of these apartments cost the same as a day in a Phoenix hotel, so we decided to stay in Sun City and commute to the convention.

The first time we drove out to Sun City, we were shocked at how far it was from the convention center — way out in the country. But we en-

joyed the apartment very much and were especially impressed with the program Webb laid out for us. We spent more time in Sun City than attending convention meetings and banquets.

We were looking for a retirement home and with three couples had visions of buying a piece of land and arranging houses in such a way that there would be a caretaker's home in the center of our little community.

But there was so much here we couldn't resist buying. We told the salesman that we wanted our house on the highest point in Webb's new community, Sun City West. He said there was no high point — it was all level.

After buying the house and before going back to Baltimore, we had to pick tiles, wallpaper, decide on colors and make decisions for the builder. It was in July and 120 degrees. I had no idea it had been that hot.

It took us five days to drive to Arizona from Baltimore. We quickly found as we approached Arizona that the sun seemed brighter and there was no pollution.

The first day we entered Sun City West, the road in — R.H. Johnson Boulevard — had no walls. It was two lanes and there were so many trucks hauling materials in that the road was covered with debris.

There were a lot of houses but no people living in them. There wasn't a blade of grass, not a bird, tree or landscaping of any kind.

We were lonesome people at first. On the cul-de-sac where we lived, two couples moved in. They had lived in Sun City and knew what it was like.

We learned that there were about 60 families at that time. Many of them were from Sun City and had purchased homes — some as many as five for investments.

In the early days, I wrote newspaper articles about what was happening in Sun City West. Next, we started a newsletter to let residents know what was going on. Our group of newcomers organized Property Owners and Residents Association. The people most influential were former Sun City residents, and they knew from experience what the problems were.

DOWN
—
MEMORY
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One thing they were very clear about was that there should be just one organization, not two like the Sun City Home Owners and Tax-payers. We felt that with just one organization, we could handle the tax questions along with other problems.

We met at the Fountain Bell Restaurant in Sun City. From eight to 15 of us would sit at a round table, listen and contribute to what was going on.

In Sun City, DEVCO built recreation centers before the houses. But here, all we had at first was the golf course. As I recall, DEVCO gave \$35,000 to the rec centers in Sun City to permit Westers to use the facilities. We were given cards that allowed us to go over there.

But some Sun City people objected.

In order to pacify us, DEVCO began promoting trips. We went to the Capitol, a showing of Erma Bombeck's TV show, the zoo, Mountain Shadows, a DEVCO enterprise, where we had tea and superb baked goods, and to the Suns basketball

games. We became very strong Suns fans.

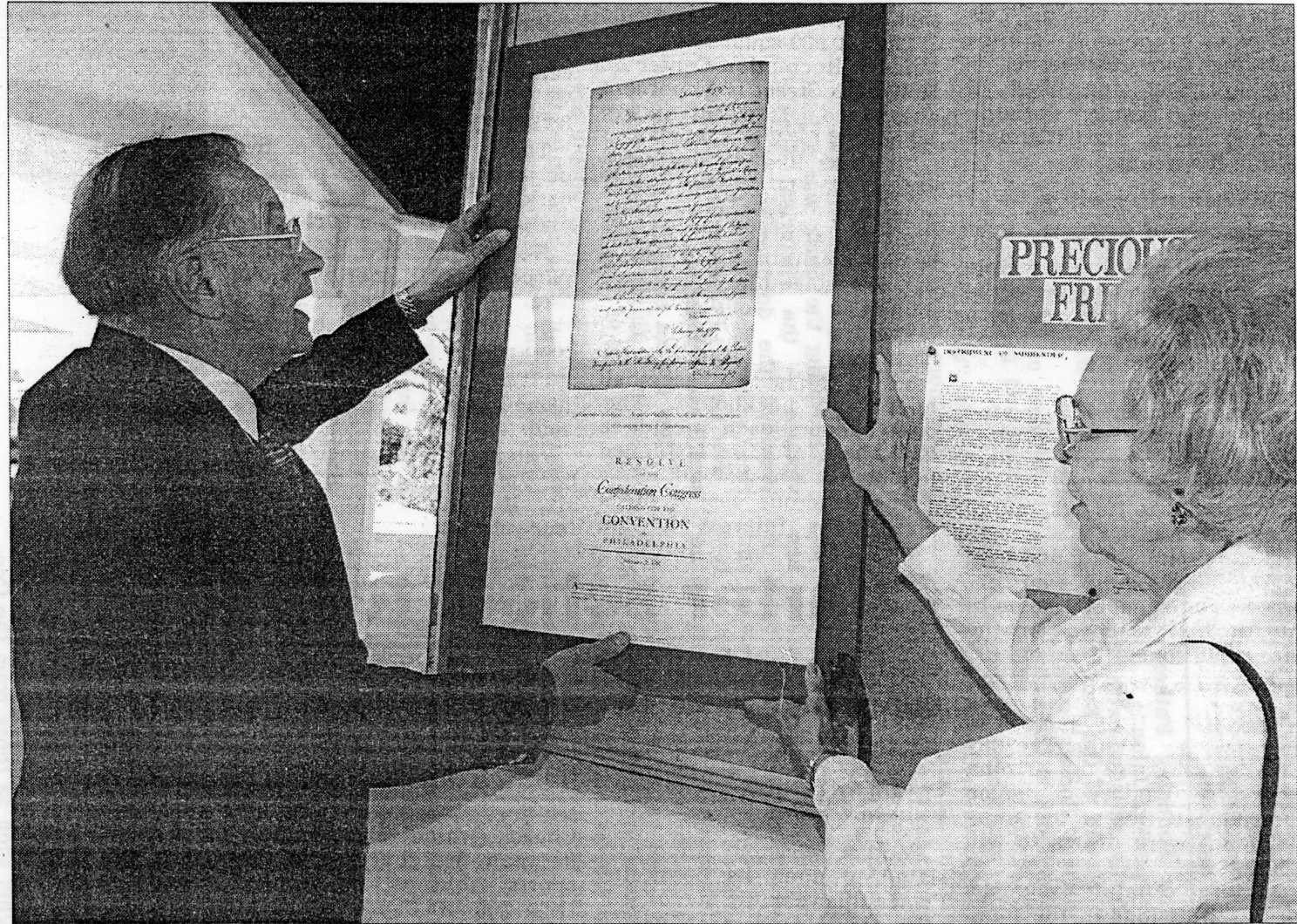
But this all stopped when the recreation centers opened. By that time, new people were pouring into the community.

We had our first PORA meeting in the first part of 1979. It was after the Crestview restaurant opened. There were probably 200 people or more by that time and the Crestview was the gathering place every evening. We would have square dancing, round-dancing, bingo and ballroom dancing. Everything was free.

People began organizing clubs. Silver club and bridge club were first. I was still writing items for the local newspapers but it soon became unnecessary because they sent reporters to events.

With all these activities during the first year, we had not taken time to really settle into our home. I heard one person say, "Have you been in Loise's second bedroom?" Well, it was full of boxes. But I wanted to see what Arizona was all about. I decided I could unpack later.

Freedom Shrine shines



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Jim Hawks and Phyllis Street of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society replace documents in the Freedom Shrine kiosk at Bell Recreation Center. A dedication celebration took place at 10:45 this morning outside the Bell Library.

(OVER)

Refurbished kiosk houses historic documents

By JEFF OWENS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Founding Fathers sought a more perfect Union.

Mostly satisfied with the Union, Jim Hawks of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society sought a more perfect kiosk at the entrance to the Bell Library.

After much hard work on his part, the large white kiosk — dubbed "The Freedom Shrine" — is being rededicated today at a 10:45 a.m. ceremony by members of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and Recreation Centers of Sun City.

The 16-year-old kiosk suffered years of neglect and sun, but has been refurbished with copies of some of America's most famous and cherished documents, plus a few which aren't as famous but are no less historic and interesting.

It's like having a little slice of the National Archives right here in Sun City: Hawks has fitted the Freedom Shrine with copies of a first draft of the U.S. Constitution, Arizona's 1912 women's suffrage amendment and governor's proclamation, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Bill of Rights, the Japanese surrender of 1945, and two documents from the Confederation Congress of the 1780s.

Plans call for new documents to be posted every six months. Hawks has already collected enough archival material for 18 panels — enough to last more than a year.

The documents are mounted under glass on the hexagonal kiosk's six panels.

Hawks, vice president of the Historical Society, said his goal was to make the display more interesting.

"I'm going to try to get some things a lot of people have never seen."

Many probably haven't seen documents such as those from the Confederation Congress or the World

War II Japanese surrender. Hawks said he plans to display copies of the Mayflower Compact, Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and the presidential oath of office.

There will be some local color too, because Hawks said he felt that old state, county and even Sun City documents would be of interest to area residents. Imagine the Rec Center bylaws posted elegantly next to George Washington's farewell address.

Because of the archaic language, syntax and penmanship, Hawks has

provided "translations" for several of the more difficult to read documents.

"When I first got involved with this, I thought it would be easy," he said with a slight laugh. "It's not."

Renovating the kiosk was a joint venture — the Historical Society provided the documents, and the Rec Centers footed the bill.

Rec Centers President Bob Briscoe said it was a pleasure.

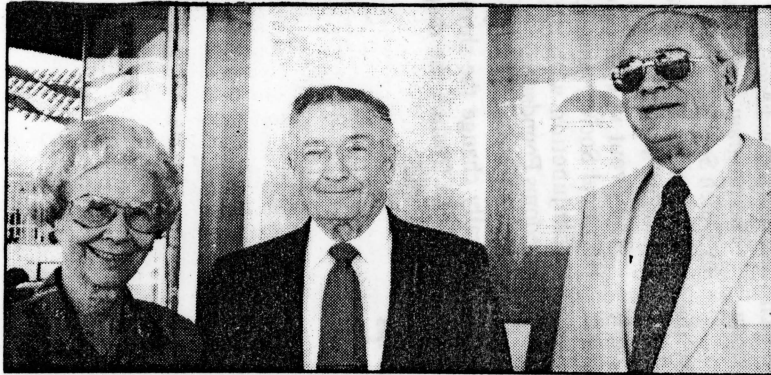
"They did an excellent job," Briscoe said. "I think it's really nice. They put a lot of time and effort into

it. I don't think a lot of people are aware of it, but it's a nice little gift, basically, from the Historical Society."

The Freedom Shrine was originally dedicated on Oct. 11, 1982 by guest speaker Sen. Barry Goldwater. It was built by the now-defunct Sun City and Sun City West Exchange clubs. After that, the kiosk fell into disrepair in the Arizona heat.

"It just sat there and got sun-burned," Hawks said. "It was looking pretty tired."

Historians re-dedicate Freedom Shrine



As Sousa marches resounded, Phyllis Street and Jim Hawks (l.) of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and Bob Briscoe, president of Sun City Recreation Centers, greeted Sun Citians who came to celebrate the rededication of the Freedom Shrine in the Bell Center. At left, Richard Hudnall stands at attention as he portrays a Colonial soldier. Photos, Dorothy Steck

By Dorothy Steck

On Feb. 24, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society re-dedicated the Freedom Shrine containing copies of historical documents in a kiosk located in Bell Center. Sun Citians came to the re-dedication celebration and to see the new sun screen over the kiosk that will protect the documents from the sun.

After Pres. Phyllis Street welcomed everyone, John Hawks explained why a re-dedication was indicated. Over the years, the

documents in glass paneled cases were sun-damaged, and it was necessary to restore, replace, protect them and "re-dedicate the Shrine that is a reminder of the freedom in our country."

Unexpectedly, invited students from Peoria School District arrived, and it gave double meaning to the ceremony with speakers focusing on the Constitution written in the past and the responsibility of students in upholding it in the future. Brig. Gen. (ret.) Bob Williams and Bob Briscoe, Pres. of the SC Recreation Centers, encouraged students to maintain freedoms written in the Constitution.

Another highlight of the event

See **FREEDOM**, Page D4

FREEDOM: Shrine Re-dedication, from Page D1

was Richard Hudnall portraying a Colonial Soldier. Hudnall was attired in full Revolutionary War regalia and described the uniform, life and times of a front line soldier.

The Freedom Shrine was presented to SC by the Exchange Club of the Sun Cities in October 1992. The Historical Society will continue to plan displays which will be changed periodically.

Freedom Shrine receives new look

Rec Centers, Historical Society plan re-dedication ceremony

By MARK CASSIO
Independent Newspapers

Nearly five months before July 4, Sun Citians are invited to celebrate American freedom.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society and Recreation Centers of Sun City host a special ceremony from 10:45 a.m. to noon Feb. 24 to re-dedicate the Freedom Shrine outside Bell Recreation Center Library, 16820 N. 99th Ave.

The Freedom Shrine — originally presented to Sun Citians by the Exchange Clubs of the Sun Cities Oct. 11, 1982, displays within its six glass-covered panels reproductions of important historical documents

from the Revolutionary War era.

Deceased United States Sen. Barry Goldwater served as keynote speaker at the first dedication almost 17 years ago.

Though the shrine's original design and structure were preserved for historical authenticity, changes have been made to better preserve its documents.

In the past, the six-sided kiosk and its documents were damaged by constant exposure to Arizona's fierce sunshine.

Now the shrine stands protected beneath a large roof constructed by the Rec Centers.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has worked for the past year

to secure new document reproductions from the National Archives to revamp the shrine display, said Jim Hawks, vice president.

Bell Woodworking Club members crafted six 24-inch by 36-inch frames to house the shrine documents.

Transcripts, type-written by the Historical Society, will be displayed alongside each document to clarify outdated language, Mr. Hawks said.

At the ceremony, Richard Hudnall, costumed in full Revolutionary War regalia, will portray ancestor William Hudnall of the Bedford Company Virginia Militia — a colonial soldier.

The "soldier" will describe his

equipment and life on the battlefield's front lines.

Mr. Hawks; Bob Briscoe, Rec Centers board president; and retired Brigadier Gen. Rob Williams of the Phoenix Chapter of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, will address the audience, too.

The program also includes music by Dutch Schultz.

Chairs will be available for celebration participants.

The event is sponsored by the Historical Society and Rec Centers in conjunction with the Phoenix Freedoms Foundation.

The Historical Society will periodically change the shrine's documents to freshen the display, Mr. Hawks said.



MARCH 1999

Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Pat Vick, second from left, of the Sun City Poms, presents a display case to the Sun Cities Historical Society and its president, Phyllis Street, left, at the society's office and museum in Sun City Tuesday. Other Poms on hand are from right, Margie Klemm, Geri Hoffman and Betty Perrett.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society

cordially invites you to our

Annual Spring Luncheon

Featuring

**ARIZONA
WOMEN'S
HALL OF FAME**

... a fascinating presentation by

Dr. Reba Wells Grandrud

Director, Arizona Historical Society

Museum at Tempe

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Time: 12:30 p.m.

Sun City West Community Center

19803 R. H. Johnson Blvd.

Reservations are a Must!

Send check for \$6.50 per person

Payable to SCAHS, 10801 Dr., Sun City, AZ 85351

Or phone Phyllis Street at 584-0323

Historical Society to hear about Arizona women

"The Arizona Women's Hall of Fame" will be the subject of Dr. Reba Wells Grandrud's presentation at the annual spring luncheon of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society on Wednesday, April 21. A nationally recognized historian, Grandrud is executive director of the Arizona Historical Society Museum in Tempe, and author-editor of "The Women's Hall of Fame" publications and numerous historical articles.

The youngest daughter of a pioneer New Mexico family, Dr. Grandrud has been a Phoenix resident since 1982, coming here from Albuquerque.

The catered luncheon, open to the public, will be at 12:30 p.m. in the Sun City West Community Center, 14475 R.H. Johnson Blvd. Tickets are \$6.50. Reser-

vations are essential, and must be paid by April 16. Mail a check for \$6.50 per person to S.C.A.H.S., 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351, or call 584-0323.

Among the personalities who have been inducted into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame are: Sharlot M. Hall, Prescott historian and teller of tales and poems that help keep alive the early days of the Territory of Arizona. Maie Bartlett Heard and her husband, Dwight B. Heard, began collecting Indian artifacts for their home, which became Heard Museum. Hattie Josephine Goldwater, matriarch of the famous clan, noted for courage, self-respect and patriotism, came to Arizona alone for her health, married merchant Baron Goldwater.

Sun Cities Historical Society seeks volunteers

By Chet Lacy

Phyllis Street, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, has made an appeal for volunteers, men and women, to help in a variety of ways in the Society's offices in "This Old House," at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

"We are staffed entirely by volunteers," she said. "We have no paid employees. We do have many dedicated men and women who volunteer their time, talent, and energy; who enjoy the essential services of preserving the history and heritage of this region."

"However, we need more help in a variety of services, such as hosting, tour guiding, typing, filing, sorting, making displays."

"The hours you would work would be entirely up to you," she explained. You don't have to put in a great amount of time. Please come and visit about it. You will find it a pleasant and fun place to work and a rewarding way to serve in preserving our history,

which is so important."

For further information call Street, 584-0323, or any of the board members namely Jim Hawks, vice president; Virginia Simmons, treasurer, or Al France, secretary.

Ancients help pioneers reclaim desert

A8

Tuesday, May 25, 1999 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ari

Most Sun Citians know that the land where their homes sit was once productive farmland where cotton, grapes, oranges and a myriad of other crops were grown.

Agriculture prospered despite being a part of the Sonoran Desert, the hottest, driest area in the North America. In 1858, the United States Congress accepted a report about Arizona which stated: "The region is absolutely worthless. After entering it, there is nothing to do but leave."

The answer, of course, was water.

Gold had been discovered in 1863 on the Hassayampa River, attracting settlers and Wickenburg prospered. Fort McDowell, now the headquarters for the Salt River Indian Reservation, was established in 1865 when Federal authorities assigned troops withdrawn from the Civil War to protect settlers from unfriendly Indians. Obtaining food for the troops and feed for the horses wasn't easy. The Army got some grain from the Pima and Maricopa Indians. Other supplies were freighted in at high cost from California.

John Y.T. Smith, a Civil War veteran and a civilian wagon master for the 14th Infantry, noted that wild grass grew stirrup high in the Salt River Valley land. He made a contract with the army to supply Fort McDowell with hay. Smith established a hay camp on the Salt and hired a number of drifters to cut the grass.

One of the drifters was Jack Swilling, a former stage hand with Butterfield Overland Mail, which had been operating across Maricopa County since 1858.

Swilling and Smith wondered about the long mounds of earth leading from the river to flat areas on the Valley floor and finally concluded that they had been man-made, constructed centuries before by some vanished civilization for irrigation purposes. Once they realized that some former tenants of the land had made the desert bloom they determined to do the same.

Archeologists agree that the area now called Arizona was inhabited by an aboriginal people known as the Hohokam and it is these people who are noted for their sophisticated irrigation systems which enabled them to grow cotton and tobacco along with corn, beans and squash. The Hohokam diverted water from the Salt and Gila Rivers into a complex system of canals, all dug by hand.

The earliest sites of these pioneering desert dwellers are dated around the time of Christ. By A.D. 700 they were thriving in numerous farming villages stung along the Salt, Gila and Santa Cruz rivers in the Phoenix Basin, an area of roughly 4,000 square miles in south central Arizona. This agricultural prosperity was the result of the irrigation system that opened agricultural lands on terraces removed from the river floodplains.

More than 500 miles of main canals brought water to some 25,000 acres in the Salt River Valley alone; hundreds of additional smaller ditches further expanded the potential to farm. Through time, Hohokam farmers consolidated the small local canals into much larger irrigation works encompassing several villages and many square miles.

For well over a thousand years they flourished in the desert. It is not certain what caused the disappearance of the Hohokams. By A.D. 1400 little evidence of their culture remained. Desert soils become salt laden and waterlogged after prolonged irrigation, a problem familiar to modern-day farmers in the region. Ultimately, the Hohokam may have become victims of their own limited technology. Many other factors probably also contributed to their downfall.

It was upon the remains left by these ancient pioneers that Smith and Swilling built their canal system. They became partners in The Swilling Ditch Co.; Smith was the executive brains of the enterprise and Swilling the public relations and marketing expert.

Swilling traveled as far as the boomtowns of Wickenburg and Prescott, selling stock in the company. Within a year, wagons loaded with produce and supplies were rolling between the canals and Wickenburg Road now over the 54 mile VULTURE OVER

called Grand Avenue).

Another key individual in the canal enterprise was an English scholar-adventurer — "Lord" Duppa. Educated, speaking five languages, accustomed to a life of luxury, he cheerfully made himself at home with Smith and Swilling, and was accepted as a drinking buddy. In 1867 Duppa joined forces with them.

Two years later he is credited with having made a speech that saved Phoenix from being named Pumpkinsville, Stonewall, Salinas or Mill City. Duppa proclaimed that a new civilization was rising, like the Phoenix bird of mythology, from the ashes of a vanished one (the Hohokam).

Other canal companies were soon established. By 1882 the Grand Canal was supporting a flourishing agricultural industry on the reclaimed desert east of Phoenix. Inspired by this success, the Arizona Canal Co. was formed to construct a waterway from Granite Reef, north of Mesa, to the arid plains west of Phoenix. William J. Murphy, who had just completed a stretch of the Atlantic Railway (now the Santa Fe) in Northern Arizona, agreed to construct the Arizona Canal in exchange for proceeds from any water rights he could sell. After three years of work, in 1885 he completed the 32-mile waterway and its twenty laterals. He then headed east to entice Illinois farmers to settle the new
39,000 ACRE Irrigation District

Two wealthy residents of Peoria, Ill., Delos L. Brown and J.B. Greenhut, immediately obtained four sections of newly irrigated land 14 miles northwest of Phoenix. Their ranches flanked the Vulture Road, which carried the Tri-Weekly Stage to Wickenburg. Brown platted 80 acres of his ranch for business and residential lots and named the locality Peoria, in honor of his hometown.

The growth and potential of the area impressed another pioneer, R.P. Davie, a business venturer from Marinette, Wis. He bought and leased thousands of acres between the New River and the Aqua Fria, where Sun City is located. This area lay just beyond the end of the Arizona Canal, but Davie learned that it was underlain by a rich aquifer and developed a deep well pumping system to irrigate his acreage.

Davie's promotional activities attracted settlers and, following the example of the founders of Peoria, Davie platted a townsite and named it after his hometown. Marinette soon attracted a store, a boarding house and a few homes located along the Vulture Road in an area between where 103rd and 112th Avenues are now situated. The United States Post Office opened in 1912, the year the territory achieved statehood.

*From the files of the Sun Cities
Area Historical Society*

Sun Cities Area Historical Society seeks area history items for archives

By Chet Lacy

In seeking historical items on the area, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society announces its summer hours at its headquarters, the "Old House" located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, are from 10 a.m. till Noon, Fridays and Saturday, June, July and August.

"We encourage anyone with any historical records and memorabilia relating to our area to bring them in for our archives,"

said Pres. Phyllis Street.

"We appreciated the 20-year history of the Energetic Exercise Club of SCW, which was chartered in 1979 which was written by Eleanor Parks," Ms. Street mentioned.

"We also appreciated the local newspapers dated July, 1974, the time of Del Webb's death with wonderful information and photos, brought in by an anonymous

donor.

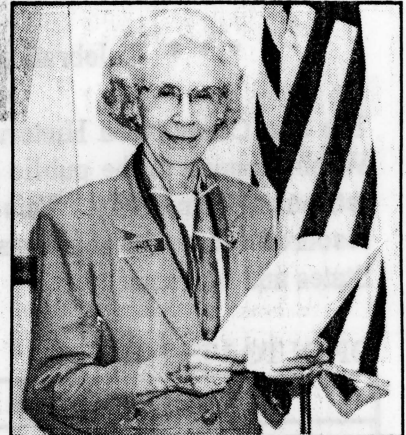
"And the 1961-98 history of the Windsor Belles, original residents of Windsor Drive in Sun City."

Ms. Street encourages anyone who might be moving or house cleaning and can't save old items to let any of the officers of the Historical Society know or bring the memorabilia in to the "Old House" Historical Society offices and museum. You just might have some valuable items that should go in the archives. Don't throw them out!

Officers of the Historical Society are Phyllis Street, president, office phone 974-2568, or residence, 584-0323; Jim Hawks, vice president; Virginia Simmons, treasurer, and Al France, secretary.

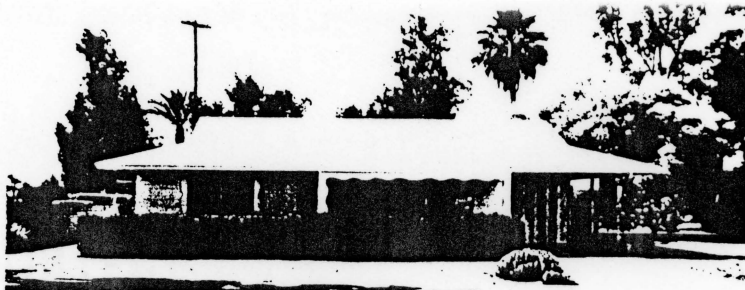
"If anyone would like to serve as a volunteer at the offices and museum, there is a wide variety of opportunities to help," Ms. Street invited. "This could include typing, clipping, filing, and sorting or hosting, making displays and other services."

"Just call any of the officers for information."



Phyllis Street, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, is seeking records and memorabilia.

Photo, Chet Lacy



SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

10801 Oakmont Drive

Sun City, AZ 85351

* * * Celebrating our Tenth Year at this Historic Site in 2000 * * *

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is located in the first model home built by Del Webb, opened to the public on January 1, 1960, the beginning day for our unique active retirement community. This site serves as museum, exhibition space, and multi-faceted resource center for residents of the Sun Cities and visitors from throughout the United States and overseas.

OPEN TO VISITORS:

September through May	Tuesday through Friday	1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
June, July, August---Friday & Saturday 10:00-12:00 a.m.		

Or by appointment--- Group Tours welcome

Sun City and Sun City West memorabilia on display, including early maps, model home site plans, photos and data are part of extensive archival records. Current exhibits on view:

* The Old Vulture Road (now Grand Avenue) --- hidden treasures along the trail

* Town of Marinette --- unusual photographs and news articles --- the area before the Sun Cities

* The Sun City Saints, championship ladies softball team, AND the Pro teams who trained in Sun City

SOUVENIRS FOR SALE

Historical books

Bronze commemorative medallions

Pamphlets describing the Sun Cities historical events



SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY HONORS
SUN CITY'S 40th YEAR IN 2000

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a non-profit charitable organization run completely by volunteers. Memberships are open to individual, families, businesses and organizations at modest fees. Contributions in any amount are gratefully appreciated.

We have speakers available for programs at your club or church groups. For further information on group tours, speaker programs, and volunteer opportunities, please call:

Sun Cities Area Historical Society (623) 974-2568

Historical Society readies for millennium

Summer is rushing by and while we are open to visitors at our historical house only on Friday and Saturday mornings, activity has not stopped other days of the week. This is a time for looking critically at our facilities and operations. Not only are we busy carpet cleaning, filing and reorganizing storage space, but we must move forward by creating new displays and exhibits, reviewing our policies and strategic planning as we move into the millennium year 2000.

Mark your calendar for the following special SCAHS events:

● Nov. 10 (Wednesday) — Annual Fall Membership Luncheon, Lakes Club.

● Jan. 12, 2000 (Wednesday) — Anniversary Celebration.

On Jan. 12, 1990, an official ribbon cutting ceremony was held at 10801 Oakmont Drive, opening this location as the headquarters of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society which had been established as a not-for-profit organization four years earlier. Thus, in January 2000 we will celebrate Sun City's 40th anniversary, Sun City West's 22nd anniversary, and SCAHS

will celebrate 10 years in our headquarters.

We also plan to hold several other special events in the coming year. We would enjoy hearing from you if you would like to assist in planning or hosting at special events or during regular visiting hours.

Sadly we relate the loss of our faithful hostess, Doris Foster, who welcomed visitors for more than 10 years. She was a willing helper at so many events and a valued assistant to her husband, Albert Foster, when he served as our treasurer. Doris died in May and we will long remember her dedication to our society.

We appreciate the many Sun Cities items of historical interest which members and area residents bring to us. Why not stop by to visit and see our new displays and work in progress?

We're located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Phyllis Street, President

Sun Cities Area Historical Society

News-Sun 7-27-99

PAGE 2— SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT— JULY 28-AUGUST 3, 1999

Community News

Historical Society

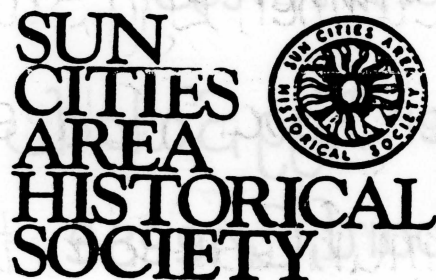
sets summer hours

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Dr., Sun City, has revised summer hours now through August. The society is open to the public 10 a.m.-noon Fridays and Saturdays.

Among the new memorabilia and exhibits is a display tracing the history of the Sun City Pom Poms, a group of women that have come to symbolize active retirement nationally.

Also featured is a display of the Sun City Saints, a team of women

softball players who for 15 years won the hearts of west valley residents and several regional and national championships before disbanding in 1980.



10801 Oakmont Ave.
Sun City, Arizona 85351
(602) 974-2568

Historical
High Tea



at

"This Old House"

If Teacups Could Talk

Life is a cup to
be filled, not
drained.

Anonymous



~ Menu ~

Sandwiches

Cucumber, Egg Salad

Checkerboard, Cheese

Cream Cheese-Tomato Basil

Cream Cheese w/ Lemon Curd

Pineapple-Banana Muffin

! Kiwi !

Cookie

Cream Puff

~ Tea ~

Webb visionary created lake

Back in 1968, when most of the residents of Sun City lived south of Grand Avenue, new home-buyers were witnessing what Del Webb Development Corp. was doing with the cotton fields north of the Avenue. Specifically "The Mountain" — the president of the Webb organization had decided to use the material removed to make a lake into something useful, something that would fit in with the whole "phase two" part of the Sun City development plan.

It would include not only Viewpoint Lake but Lakeview Center and a series of new model homes. The mountain, if properly built, would be a focal point for the growing community.

Because of its size — there was a lot of dirt coming out of the space for the lake — it called for special treatment and demanded intricate planning followed by painstaking execution.

The project was turned over to Tom Kemp, a member of Meeker's staff who worked with Meeker in conceiving an idea reflecting Mr. Kemp's work before he became a part of Webb's commercial architecture department.

Mr. Kemp specialized in designing churches in Wisconsin.

Viewpoint Park, as it is now called, with its magnificent use of rushing water and still water, its rock terraces and ledges, its chorus of harmonizing plant life and its pattern of serenity became somewhat of a "church for all man."

Instead of pews there are walkways and ramadas for picnics. And to the dismay of some, the "socials" are conducted daily by the permanent resident ducks, geese and coots.

To accomplish the effects desired, some hard problems had to be solved. The water system was the biggest hurdle since the engineers not only had to get the water to the top, they had to get enough of it up the hill so it would look like a mountain spring when it fell back down. It would take 1,600 gallons per minute to create the effect desired.

The water, of course, comes from Viewpoint Lake, and after it cascades down the rocky ledges, it spills into a pond, which drains partially back into the lake under bridges, then glistens into quieter water ringed with "bulrushes."

Even before the water could be considered, the stability of the mountain itself had to be engineered. A structural concrete backing reinforces the side; the rocks over which the water falls are a facade, but necessary. The erosion potential of that much water is tremendous.

The final touch, the landscaping, completes the ecological concept. Plants that tolerate the summer's hot wrath occupy the sunny side facing the lake. Pines and more lush plants are practically crowding each other out on the falls side now, years later.

The growth that makes any spot in the park such an "outstanding backdrop" for taking pictures of friends and family was planned so it included the widest possible range of plants. Many were tagged so the newcomers can learn to identify species they find elsewhere.

And, of course, there had to be a lookout at the top. The gazebo is open and airy and has benches facing outward giving a bird's eye view across Viewpoint Lake and the tops of homes clustered at the water's edge.

There is a drinking fountain at the top overlooking the waterfall.

Kemp and Meeker did more than just design a park and mountain. Both were out there in the mud and dust, hauling and placing the textured rocks as the masterpiece was taking shape.

For Mr. Kemp, it was a consuming work of love, and he consulted frequently with others to make sure it was not only beautiful — but comfortable, from the covered ramadas and sunken containers to the easy slopes of the walkways. He died a year after Lakeview Center and its adjoining lake and park were dedicated.

From the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

**DOWN
MEMORY
LANE**

News - Sun 8/7/99

Webb surrounded himself with visionaries

If Del Webb were alive today he would be 100 years old. Webb was born in Fresno, Calif., on May 17, 1899. On July 4, 1974 he died of lung cancer.

Soon after his death more than 5,000 of his friends gathered to eulogize him. Men who served with him in building his business empire were there, as were representatives of the press and distinguished guests.

MEMORY LANE

Then-Sen. Barry Goldwater traced his 40-year friendship with Webb. But the majority of the throng had never shaken his hand, never talked with him. They were the people of Sun City who came to honor the man who had given them something special in their lives — new homes, dignity in retirement, worthwhile activities that would extend their lives and the promise of golden years.

The late Doug Morris, then president of the Sun City Taxpayers Association, said this of Webb: "I hope his spirit never rests — that it continues on the winding streets of Sun City, that it motivates those with the task of translating the genius of his vision into reality for those who reach 65 or older who may feel the challenge is over."

While the name Del Webb and Sun City go together in the minds of those who think "active retirement," Webb didn't personally create the world's most famous retirement community. He did establish an organizational framework with men of vision and allowed them to grow under his direction. His natural concern for and love of people was manifested in the development of Sun City, which he came to see as his greatest accomplishment. His spirit, his business acumen and his energetic talent were all responsible for this success.

Before Sun City was envisioned, Del Webb had already established his

construction company in Phoenix and had built a national reputation as builder of hotels, office buildings and military bases. Luke Air Force Base is one of his products.

Like many successful men, Webb's life had a modest beginning. His father was a small contractor and amateur baseball player who passed onto his son the tools of both trades — a carpenter's saw and a fastball. His mother was the daughter of a German farmer who built one of the first irrigation systems in California.

By the time he was 10 years old, Webb knew his way around a construction site and a baseball diamond with equal aplomb. When he was 14, his father went broke in the construction business. Del had completed his first year in high school and left school immediately to work as a carpenter to help support the family consisting of his parents, himself and two younger brothers. Two years later he hit the road as a semi-pro baseball player on weekends and as a journeyman carpenter during the week. Though never a big leaguer, he did manage a precarious living up and down the West Coast from Mexico to Canada.

When America entered the war in 1917, Webb got a job in the Oakland Shipyards, thus making his contribution to the war effort. With a steady job, he could now marry his childhood sweetheart, Hazel Church, a marriage that lasted until 1952.

Baseball was still in his blood, but his playing days came to an abrupt halt in 1926 when a collision at home plate left him with torn ligaments and cracked ribs. After recovering from these injuries he was laid low with a particularly virulent case of typhoid fever. Twice he almost died, and his weight dropped from 204 pounds to 99. He was in bed for 11 weeks, and it was a year before he was able to work.

Whether it was his doctor's advice or a tip from a friend, the Webbs decided to move to Phoenix. "The climate will put you back on your feet," they told him.

The year was 1927. U.S. Marines

had landed in China in March to protect the U.S. and British consulates during the Chinese civil war. In May of that year, Charles Lindbergh flew a light, single-engine plane across the Atlantic.

The Westward Ho Hotel was under construction and Webb got a job hanging doors. When that job ended he was hired by a small contractor to erect shelves and cabinets for J.B. Bayless, a pioneer Phoenix merchant. When the contractor disappeared, leaving behind bouncing checks, Bayless asked young Webb to finish the job. This marked the beginning of the Del. E. Webb Construction Company. Bayless backed him financially and Webb took over the defunct contractor — 10 wheelbarrows, 20 shovels and 10 picks.

Webb's first expansion outside Phoenix was a contract to build a filling station for the Union Oil Company in Las Vegas, Nev. This job led to other ventures in the construction business. The company grew rapidly when the United States became involved in World War II, and the Webb company reputation got many wartime contracts.

Del Webb's interest in retirement living grew gradually from personal experience and memories of his grandparents. His grandfather, Jimmy Webb, had grouched about being old with nothing to do. His father had said, "My old man used to say that the railroad companies were the only ones doing anything for the guys they retired."

He surrounded himself with men who were aware of the changes taking place in American society and who had the courage to venture into untried fields. Some of these men, who were in on the beginning of the Del E. Webb Development Company that built Sun City, were L. C. Jacobson, John Meeker, Thomas Breen, Owen Childress, Tom Austin, John Ashton and James Boswell, among others.

(From the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society).

Copper Enamelers exhibit in Sun City

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has opened an exhibit featuring art pieces by members of the Copper Enamelers Club of Sun City West.

Founded in 1980, the club was among the first chartered clubs in Sun City West. The club lists among its accomplishments murals on each side of the main entry to Beardsley Park Recreation Center and the mural entitled, "Arizona Reflections," installed in the lobby of the Del Webb Hospital.

An opening day reception will be held at the Historical Society 1:30 p.m. Sept. 24. Refreshments will be served.

The exhibit continues through Nov. 19. The public is invited.

The society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City. Hours are 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Page B4 THE WESTER Thursday, October 28, 1999

Svendsen to speak at area Historical Society

Jerry Svendsen, publisher of Sun Life magazine and former vice president and director of public relations of Del E. Webb Corp., will be the speaker at the annual Fall Luncheon meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society at the Lake Club in Sun City on Wednesday, Nov. 10. Social time 11:30. Luncheon is at Noon.

Svendsen will present: "The Sun Cities: Prologue to the New Millennium." The public is invited.

Reservations are necessary and must be made by Friday, noon, Nov. 5. Send or bring check for \$14 per person, made payable to Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Dr., Sun City, AZ 85351.

Open hours at the historical society are 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. For more information call 584-0323.

Clay club had early success

When the late Parke W. Soule and his wife, Jean arrived in Sun City in the summer of 1969, they started attending South, now Fairway, Ceramic Club. Ceramics were new here and interesting but the forming of clay objects from just a ball of clay was more appealing to the Soules. As newcomers, formation of a new club was a challenge but it was obvious that there was interest in and a need for a stoneware group.

After some informal discussion among various members a meeting was held on Oct. 15, 1969 with Jean Wheeler as temporary chairman. Recreation Centers Manager Jay S.M. Titus became interested in seeing a new club formed and advised the group that if the proposed club by-laws were broadened to include all forms of ceramics rather than being limited to freeform, wheel, sculpture, etc., it could expect to be assigned the ceramic rooms at Lakeview Center. Lakeview Center was scheduled to be completed and hold a "grand opening" for the public by Webb on January 1970.

The proposed by-laws were approved and on Oct. 16 the first chairman, Althea Lahn, submitted the formal request for a club charter. Since the petitioning group was particularly interested in freedom to work in stoneware and handbuilding,

the term, "ceramic," was avoided and the name "Sun City Clay Club" was deemed most appropriate and all-inclusive. On Dec. 8, 1969 Manager Titus advised Mrs. Lahn that the Board at their December 8 meeting "welcomed the Sun City Clay Club as a chartered club."

The number of members in this first club is unknown but the club did well financially and bought equipment, materials and supplies as needed. An early fund-raising project to make "executive ashtrays" for the Thunderbird Bank was initiated by Dorothy Kuehn, more than fifty were made; they were seven inches across and had the bank logo at the bottom.

A controversy soon developed regarding the name of the club. In 1973 the name was changed to Lakeview Clay Club, then to Lakeview Ceramics, followed by Clay Club in May 1978. A scattering of loyal members, preferring to work in clay in the 1970s were happy with the name, Clay Club. But others were not satisfied and were determined to have full replacement of Clay Club with Ceramics. Ultimately separation of casting and hand-forming could no longer be avoided. So in 1978 a small group decided to form the Sun City Clay Club and Recreation Centers Management gave the club a room next to the rest rooms on the upper floor at Lakeview Center.

This small, determined group had very little equipment — one wheel and two kilns, one of which had to be replaced in a short time.

Some members enrolled in clay

classes at Glendale Community College. Professor Bob Lundeen, head of the Ceramic Department, gave a lot of help, advising, visiting and eventually teaching a Saturday group of Sun Citians at the College. These members in return became teachers for the club. Parke Soule taught wheel; Ev Peterkin taught beginning handbuilding; Sally Lipp taught sculpture; Blanche Schopp taught glazing and wheel, and Jean Soule taught glazing. Harriet Lewallen supervised the glazing techniques.

The first chairman of the re-organized club was Lee Van Gordon and the name, Sun City Clay Club was kept since the club's purpose was to work in freeform. New members joined as Sun City grew. Olive Linder suggested that a newsletter was needed, so beginning in January 1983 the first letter went out. By the end of 1983 attendance totaled 6,203, averaging a daily attendance of 23 members, keeping the club room open five and one-half days a week.

By the end of January 1984, club membership totaled 233. More space was needed and Recreation Center Manager Tritz agreed to help: In July he decided to move the club back to the area first assigned to the club at the opening of Lakeview Center in 1970.

Thus on Monday, Sept. 24, 1984, Sun City Clay Club officially opened its doors to the newly renovated quarters.

From the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society

DOWN
MEMORY
LANE

News - Sun 10-11-99

Historical society hosts meeting

Jerry Svendsen, who for many years was the spokesman for Del Webb Corp. when it came to Sun City, will be guest speaker at the fall membership luncheon of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Wednesday.

The session starts at 11:30 a.m. in The Lakes Club, 10484 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City.

Cost is \$14 per person. A business meeting will precede Svendsen's talk.

Reservations must be made by today. Call the society at 974-2568.

News-Sun - 11-8-99

Historical Society holds fall luncheon

The annual fall luncheon meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society will be held Nov. 10 at The Lakes Club, 10484 Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City.

Social time is 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon.

Guest speaker will be Jerry Svendsen, publisher of *Sun Life* magazine and former vice president and director of public relations for Del Webb Corp. His talk is entitled, "The Sun Cities: Prologue to the New Millennium."

The public is invited. Reservations are required. The cost is \$14 per person, payable to the Historical Society.

Call 584-0323 for more information.

Independent - 11-10-99

Taste of Sun City

SUN CITY — It's "What's Cookin'" and much more as the official *Sun City 40th Anniversary Cookbook* goes on sale.

The Sun City Historical Society has collected some of the best recipes in the Sun City tradition of home cooking, along with helpful hints on the preparation of various foods and cooking processes, a calorie counter, equivalency chart and a glossary of cooking terms.

The \$8 book can be purchased at the 40th Anniversary office, 15456 N. 99th Ave., in Sun City and at a number of upcoming events, including the Sundial Arts and Crafts Fair, Nov. 26-27.

COMMUNITY NOTEBOOK

Historical society hosts lesson

Jerry Svendsen, who for many years was the spokesman for Del Webb Corp. when it came to Sun City, will be guest speaker at the fall membership luncheon of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Wednesday.

The session starts at 11:30 a.m. in The Lakes Club, 10484 W. Thunderbird

Blvd., Sun City.

Svendsen is the publisher of *Sun Life* magazine. His topic is "The Sun Cities: Prologue to the New Millennium."

Cost is \$14 per person. A brief business meeting will precede Svendsen's talk.

Reservations must be made by today. Call the society at 974-2568.

News-Sun 11-5-99

Sun City cookbook

The official *Sun City 40th Anniversary Cookbook* can be purchased at the 40th Anniversary office, 15456 N. 99th Ave.

The Sun City Historical Society has collected some of the best recipes in the Sun City tradition of home cooking, along with hints on cooking processes, a calorie counter, equivalency chart and a glossary of cooking terms.

The \$8 book can also be purchased at a number of upcoming events, including the Sundial Arts and Crafts Fair on Friday and Saturday.

Az. Republic
11-12-99

Taste of Sun City

SUN CITY — It's "What's Cookin'" and much more as the official *Sun City 40th Anniversary*

WEST VALLEY BRIEFS

Cookbook goes on sale.

The Sun City Historical Society has collected some of the best recipes in the Sun City tradition of home cooking, along with helpful hints on the preparation of various foods and cooking processes, a calorie counter, equivalency chart and a glossary of cooking terms.

The \$8 book can be purchased at the 40th Anniversary office, 15456 N. 99th Ave., in Sun City and at a number of upcoming events, including the Sundial Arts and Crafts Fair, Nov. 26-27.

Japanese documentary on Sun Cities shown

A Japanese TV documentary about the Sun Cities will be screened for residents at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 21 at the PORA Visitors Center, 13815 Camino del Sol, in Sun City West.

The hour-long program was filmed over several weeks this summer, and was produced by NHK, Japan's national broadcasting company, for domestic broadcast. It depicts the Sun Cities adult lifestyle and shows comparisons of how seniors live in America and in Japan.

Although the commentary is in Japanese with some English, PORA spokesperson Ruth Eyerman said the documentary is very well produced.

All interested individuals are welcome to view the program.

JERRY SVENDSEN

**Publisher, Sun Life Magazine
and former Vice President and director
of Public Relations
Del E. Webb Corp.**

WILL PRESENT

**THE SUN CITIES: PROLOGUE
TO THE NEW MILLENNIUM**

**AT THE
ANNUAL FALL LUNCHEON
OF THE
SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1999
11:30 a. m.**

**The Lakes Club, Sun City
Parlor Room, east side banquet area**

**Reservations are a Must!
Deadline is Friday noon, November 5.
Send check for \$14.00 per person payable
to SCAHS, 10801 Oakmont Dr.
Sun City AZ 85351**



SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Cordially invites you
To the Fall Membership Luncheon**

- DATE:** Wednesday, November 10, 1999
- PLACE:** The Lakes Club
10484 Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City
Parlor Room, north side, banquet center
- TIME:** Social time 11:30 a.m. Luncheon 12:00
Brief business meeting & program
- PRICE:** \$14.00 per person
- SPEAKER:** Jerry Svendsen, Publisher of Sun Life
magazine and former Vice President
and Director of Public Relations for
Del E. Webb Corp.
- SUBJECT:** The Sun Cities: Prologue to the
New Millennium

**You will want to hear what Jerry has to say about the
Sun Cities and the part they will play in the future of
the American culture.**

**Bring a friend and join us for a delicious lunch at this
Sun Cities Area Historical Society annual event.**

**Advance reservations required. Please send your
check payable to SCAHS, prior to deadline of Nov. 5**