



## *Sun Cities Area Historical Society*

Where were you on January 1, 1960?

More than 100,000 people were right here in Sun City for the opening of Del Webb's first model homes on Oakmont Drive. The homes were on display that New Year's weekend as part of a new community built for "active retirement living" — an innovative concept in 1960.

Today, one of those first model homes built by the Del Webb Corporation, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, is headquarters for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. The Society is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting the history of the Sun Cities.

Carefully designed exhibits at the Society chronicle the almost 44-year history of Sun City and the almost 26-year history of Sun City West. A photo exhibit of Marinette shows the cotton fields, mule teams and tent cities that were all part of the town that preceded Sun City.

Resources allow visitors to browse through model home information, maps, memorabilia, oral histories, photos, vertical files, an obituary and homeowner telephone directories from 1961. The Society's historical pamphlets and books will interest history buffs and can be purchased at the headquarters.

The society is open from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Private tours may be arranged. A Speakers Bureau also is available. For more information call 623 974-2568.

## *Sun Cities Area Historical Society*

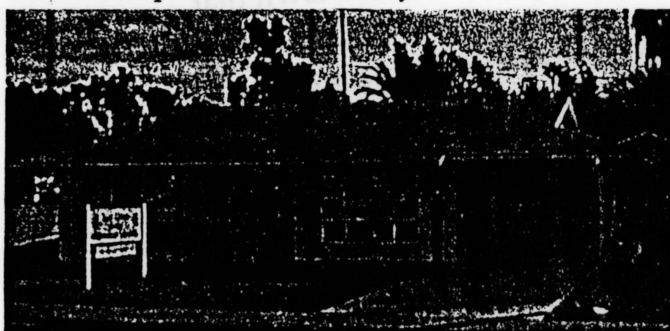
The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will host its annual Open House on Saturday, February 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its headquarters located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City.

Next door, the Oakmont Recreation Center will be hosting its annual Fun Fair on the same day.

This year will mark the Society's 15th year at the Oakmont address, which was the first model home built by the Del Webb Corporation. New signs have been installed and new light grey trim has been recently added to the house. A new website, located at <http://www.scazhistory.org>, was launched in October and the Society is gearing-up for year-long anniversary celebrations which will kick off with the February 28, open house event.

The Society is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting the history of the Sun Cities.

Visitors eager to learn more about Del Webb's Sun Cities can do so when they see the Society's carefully designed exhibits that trace the 44-year history of Sun City and the almost 26-year history of Sun City West. A photo exhibit of Marinette shows the cotton fields, mule teams and tent cities that were all part of the town that preceded Sun City.



Resources allow visitors to browse through model home information, maps, memorabilia, oral histories, photos, vertical files, an

obituary and homeowner telephone directories from 1961. The Society's historical pamphlets and books will interest history buffs and can be purchased at the headquarters.

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# SCW history includes chapter on posse volunteers

● **Sun City West Posse** members **Neal Coffman** and **Nancy** and **Dick Cherry** got a kick out of reviewing "**Sun City West Silver Celebration**" recently.

The history book details the first 25 years of Sun City West. Coffman was the posse's 1983 commander and is the only still-active member of the early posse members.

In 1998, Nancy became the posse's first woman commander. Her husband, Dick, was commander in 2001. The

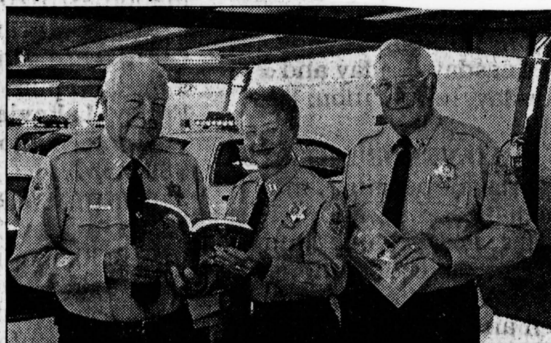


PHOTO BY CLIFFORD SCHWAHN

From left, Sun City West Posse members Neal Coffman, Nancy Cherry and Dick Cherry reminisce about their years of service in the volunteer organization after reviewing Sun City West's silver anniversary history book.

Cherrys are among the posse's many husband and wife couples dedicated to protecting the community.

The posse is featured in Chapter 16 of the book under the heading, "The Importance of Volunteers."

The book is available in the **Sun City West Visitors Center**, 13823 Camino del Sol, or at the **Sun Cities Area Historical Society**, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City. For information, call the society at 974-2568.

## *Sun Cities Area Historical Society*

Ever wonder just how Del Webb's Sun Cities all began? Then come to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting the history of the Sun Cities. Located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City, the Society is housed in the first model home built by the Del Webb Corporation.

Come see the carefully designed exhibits that chronicle the history of the "sister cities" — Sun City and Sun City West. After your tour, you may want to take home one of the following books for further study. All are available for sale at the Society:

- *Jubilee*, a book commemorating the 25th anniversary of Sun City
- *Along the Old Vulture Road*, by local author Al Tudor
- *Del Webb; A Man, A Company*, by Margaret Finnerty
- *SUN CITY WEST Silver Celebration, The First Twenty-five Years*, the newly published 25-year history of Sun City West. This book also may be purchased at the Sun City West Visitors Center or at Wagner Books in the Promenade Shopping Center.

For a peak into the past, and for a greater appreciation of Del Webb's innovative concept of "active retirement communities," visit the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. The Society's hours



(September through May) are 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Private tours can be arranged. For more information call 623 974-2568.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society's annual spring meeting will be held on April 14, at 1 p.m., at the Sun City West Foundation Building. This year's theme will be "Cultural Arts in the Sun Cities."

The Society will host a 25th Anniversary Tea for the Sun City Poms from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on April 21 at the Society.

# Open House



**Date:** February 28, 2004

**Time:** 9am-2pm

10801 Oakmont Drive  
Sun City, Arizona

**Meet Emil Fischer 10-11am**

- One of the Society's founders
- Designer of its logo.
- Illustrator of two books:  
*Jubilee* and *Churches of the Sun Cities*

**Meet Max Gimpel 1-2pm**

- Designer of Sun City's 25th and 40th anniversary logos
- Designer of Beth Emeth Congregation in Sun City West

**Exhibits, photos, memorabilia, books**

**Information:** 623/974-2568

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## Community News

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### Historical society plans open house

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will host its annual Open House from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 28 at its headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Exhibits, photos, memorabilia, historical pamphlets and books of Marinette and Del Webb's Sun Cities will be on display.

Special guests include Emil Fischer and Max Gimpel.

Mr. Fischer is one of the Society's founders and designer of its logo. He illustrated "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City." Arizona and "Churches of the

Sun Cities."

He will greet visitors from 10 to 11 a.m.

Mr. Gimpel designed the 25th anniversary logo for Sun City in 1985 and the 40th anniversary logo in 2000.

He designed Beth Emeth Congregation in Sun Cities West. He will greet visitors from 1 to 2 p.m.

Call 974-2568.

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DAILY NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, FEB. 14, AND SUNDAY, FEB. 15, 2004

**A3**

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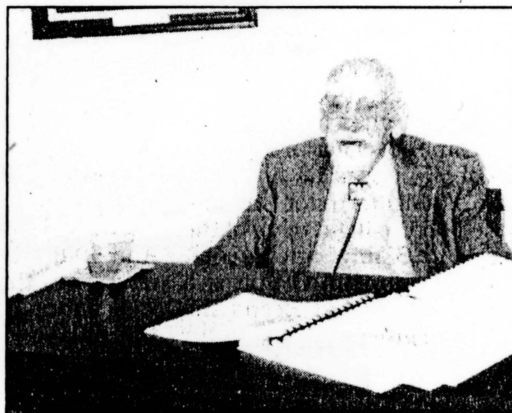
### Open house at historical society

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will have its annual open house from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 28 at its headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Exhibits, photos, memorabilia, historical pamphlets and books on Marinette and Del Webb's Sun Cities will be on display.

For information, call 974-2568.

The society headquarters are open from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

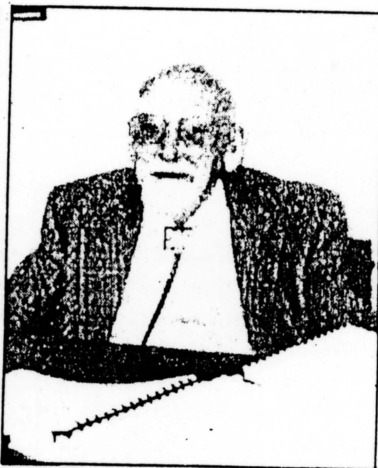


Submitted photo

## Special guests

Max Gimpel, left, and Emil Fischer, right, were the special guests at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's Open House Feb. 28. Mr. Gimpel designed the logo for both the Silver Anniversary of Sun City in 1985 and for its 40th anniversary in 2000. He designed Beth Emeth Congregation in Sun City West. Mr. Fischer is one of the Society's founders and designer of its logo. He illustrated the 1985 book, "Jubilee the 25th Anniversary of Sun City Arizona" and the 1987 book, "Churches of the Sun Cities." For more information about the Society, call 974-2568.

## A couple of designing guys



THE WESTER  
April 15, 2004  
p. B-8

Max Gimpel (l.) and Emil Fischer were the special guests at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's recent Open House. Gimpel designed the logo for both the Silver Anniversary of Sun City in 1985 and for its 40th anniversary in 2000. He designed Beth Emeth Congregation in Sun City West. Fischer is one of the Society's founders and designer of its logo. He illustrated the 1985 book, "Jubilee the 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona" and the 1987 book "Churches of the Sun Cities." For more information about the Society, call (623) 974-2568.  
Street

Photos, Nancy Laska & Phyllis



## *Sun Cities Area Historical Society*

Flashbacks in history can be found in the historical pamphlets and books at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, and presenting the history of the Sun Cities. Located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City since 1989, the Society is housed in the first model home built by the Del Webb Corporation.

Today, exhibits at the Society trace the 44-year history of Sun City and the 26-year history of Sun City West. A photo exhibit tells the story of Marinette, a town that preceded Sun City. Historical pamphlets and books tell about Marinette, Del Webb, Sun City, Sun City West, Lizard Acres, and Vulture Road. Memorabilia of the Sun City PRIDES, the Sun City Saints, and the Sun City Poms are all on display.

The Society's hours are 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Private tours can be arranged. For more information call 623 974-2568.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society's *Annual Spring Meeting* will be held on April 14, at 1 p.m., in the Quail/Coyote Room at the Sun City West Foundation Building. The guest speaker will be Nancy Gilkeson Root, a long-time devotee and supporter of the arts in the Sun Cities. Her topic will be "Cultural Arts in the Sun Cities."

On April 21, the Society will host a *25th Anniversary Tea* for the Sun City Poms from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Society headquarters. The Poms are an internationally acclaimed acrobatic pom/dance group and marching unit. They made their debut at a community softball game in 1979.



## THE SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO OUR

### *Annual Spring Meeting*

*Featuring*

*Nancy Gilkeson Root*

*Long-time devotee and supporter  
of the Arts in the Sun Cities*

*presenting*

## CULTURAL ARTS IN THE SUN CITIES

Wednesday, April 14, 2004

Light Refreshments 1:00 pm Program 1:30 pm

Sun City West Foundation Quail/Coyote Room  
14465 R. H. Johnson Blvd, Sun City West

Public Welcome! Reservations helpful  
Call (623) 974-2568 or (623) 584-0323  
Please leave name and number attending



Paintbrushes

## Sun Cities arts part of history

The theme of this year's annual spring meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society is "Cultural Arts in the Sun Cities."

The event begins 1 p.m. April 14 in the Quail/Coyote Room of the Sun City West Foundation Building, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Nancy Gilkeson Root will be the guest speaker. She is a long-time supporter of the arts in the Sun Cities, including Theater Works, the Sun Cities Chamber Music Society and the Butterfield Musicales.

She is on the board of the Business Volunteers of the Arts in Phoenix, and she and her husband, Bob, are on the West Valley Fine Arts Council advisory committee.

Cookies and punch will be served. Admission is free and the event is open to the public. For information, call the society at 974-2568.

## Society to discuss Arts

"Cultural Arts in the Sun Cities" is the theme for this year's annual spring meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. The event begins 1 p.m. April 14 in the Quail/Coyote Room of the Sun City West Foundation Building, 14465 R. H. Johnson Blvd.

Nancy Gilkeson Root will be the guest speaker. Ms. Root is a long-time devotee and supporter of the arts in the Sun Cities, including Theater Works, the Sun Cities Chamber Music Society and the Butterfield Musicales.

Ms. Root is on the board of

the Business Volunteers of the Arts in Phoenix. She and her husband, Bob, are on the West Valley Fine Arts Council Advisory Committee.

Cookies and punch will be served. Admission is free to the public.

For more information, call the society 974-2568.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2004

DAILY NEWS-SUN

# Garage sale will benefit historical society

**T**he **Lysaloma Chapter of the Questers** are holding a garage sale to benefit the preservation and restoration fund from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday at 13407 Gemstone Drive in Sun City West. A portion of the profits will benefit the **Historical Society of Sun City** and a portion will benefit the Railway Museum in Chandler. The Questers are a non-profit group that helps raise funds to preserve memorials and historic buildings, and help establish scholarship funds.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

**A8** MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2004

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2004

A3

## Notebook

### Tea highlights Poms silver celebration

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will have an afternoon tea from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. April 21 to honor the Sun City Poms' 25th anniversary.

The event will be in the society's headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

The Poms are an internationally acclaimed acrobatic pom and dance group and marching unit.

The group originated out of Sun City dance classes taught by former professional dancers, the late Corena and Ray Leslie. The Poms made their debut at a community softball game in 1979.

Two of the original Poms will be on hand to share their early adventures with visitors. Nine of the current Poms will be in costume and will do a routine for visitors at 2:30 p.m.

For information, call the society at 974-2568.

*A Special Invitation*

*25th Anniversary Tea*

*for the*

*Sun City Poms*

*Wednesday, April 21, 2004*

*1:30-3:30 p.m.*

*Hosted by*

*Sun Cities Area Historical Society*

*10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City*

*(623) 974-2568*

**1979 - 2004**



**The Poms will present one of  
their special routines,  
in person and in costume,  
at 2:30 p.m.**

**Refreshments will be served.**

## HISTORY

The Leslie Sun City Pom Pom Squad, organized in April 1979, first performed at the local Sun City Saints softball games. It was hoped their appearances would increase attendance.

The POMS evolved from classes taught by Corinne and Roy Leslie, a professional dance team for more than 50 years. The POMS come from all walks of life -- teachers, secretaries, business executives, and housewives -- with no previous dancing experience. The POMS became an adept group of performers under the expert instruction and guidance of the Leslie's.

In the spring of 1979, the News Sun ran a story on the group and released it to the Associated Press. In June of 1979, NBC-TV's "Real People" came to film the group. This resulted in national and even international recognition. A Tokyo friend sent a picture and clipping that had appeared in a Tokyo newspaper.

On December 15, 1979, the Pom Pom girls marched in front of the 100-foot long Sun City - Sun City West float leading the Fiesta Bowl Parade.

The 1980's continued their success in numerous appearances at conventions, schools, parades, rest homes, fund drives, charity shows, sporting events, etc., etc.

In 1984, the POMS were photographed by Del Webb photographer, Ken Casley, for a calendar patterned after the Dallas cheerleader's calendar. About 25,000 were printed and sold with the proceeds going to the group's travel expenses.

A highlight of the group's travels came in 1985 when the group was asked to perform at the annual fundraiser for the National Fitness Foundation in New York City. Here they met and were photographed with the First Lady, Nancy Reagan.

In December 1987, the POMS were sponsored by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Arizona. This sponsorship has meant a great deal as it helps pay for the beautiful costumes they now wear, and their travel expenses.

Over the years, the POM squad advanced in proficiency and gained experience in stage performance through many long hours of hard work in twice weekly rehearsal sessions.

They have continued their success to this day

# Poms show silver style

**ANNIE KARSTENS**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Alverta Hanson remembers the days when the famed Sun City Poms started brightening the community with dynamic dance routines and sequined costumes 25 years ago.

Little did the original group know that by the Poms' 25th anniversary, the team would be a national sensation credited with unveiling the new face of senior vitality.

"Back then, we had no idea that we'd come to do over 50 shows a year," Hanson said, remembering the growth of Pom popularity. "It just got to be more and more fun and more and more ladies wanted to join."

Hanson was one of three original Poms who attended the 25th anniversary afternoon tea at the Sun City Area Historical Society Wednesday. The home was packed

with costumed Poms, retired Poms, ladies in the marching unit and proud Pom fans. The public was invited to the event, which featured a live Poms performance.

The internationally acclaimed acrobatic, pom, dance and marching group began as a simple dance class and made their debut at a community softball game in 1979. The original choreographers, the late Ray and Corena Leslie, were fondly remembered at the tea. Since their beginnings, the Poms performed on national television, traveled the country, appeared in countless parades and events and have been featured in several publications.

Vera Kraker, an original member who retired 10 years ago, toured the historical society's displays of past Pom costumes, clippings and pom-poms. Through the

years she's kept the sunny Pom attitude and is forever grateful for the Pom's roots.

"Many of us were out here without family and we poms became our family and filled that vacant spot. They are lifelong friends," Kraker said. "The routines have change and it's always nice to see new faces. Now I think they're celebrities, but it wasn't like that back then. We just had a lot of fun."

Pom Director Lois Strong said the group aims to be ambassadors of good health and fitness:

"We try to show older people that they don't have to retire to the rocking chair," she said. "Not all of them can do splits and dance like we do, but they can stay active."

The Pom's latest number is "All That Jazz" from the hit musical and movie, "Chicago." Three-year pom Annie Keller wore the costume from the routine to the event, and explained why she's proud to be a member of the group.

"A great part is the social life, getting to meet all kinds of people and go places you wouldn't normally go," Keller said, adding that she loves performing for nursing home residents. "When we're in our traveling outfits, people gather around, ask for autographs and take our picture. It's a lot of fun."

Betty Andrews joined the poms a year ago and is the group's oldest active member. She knew it would be a fun activity, but she quickly discovered that the Poms would truly enriched her life.

"They're the original performers," she said. "They've really held their good reputation through the years — it's just a good organization and it will always be that way."



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Paul McDonald, left, and Vera Kraker look at photos and costumes from the Sun City Poms' history.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Members of the Sun City Poms, dressed in costumes from the group's history, pose for a photo during the 25th anniversary celebration Wednesday at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.



Paul McDonald, left, and Vera Kraker look at photos and costumes from the Sun City Poms history.

# Here & Now

What's Hot and What's Happening in the Sun Cities

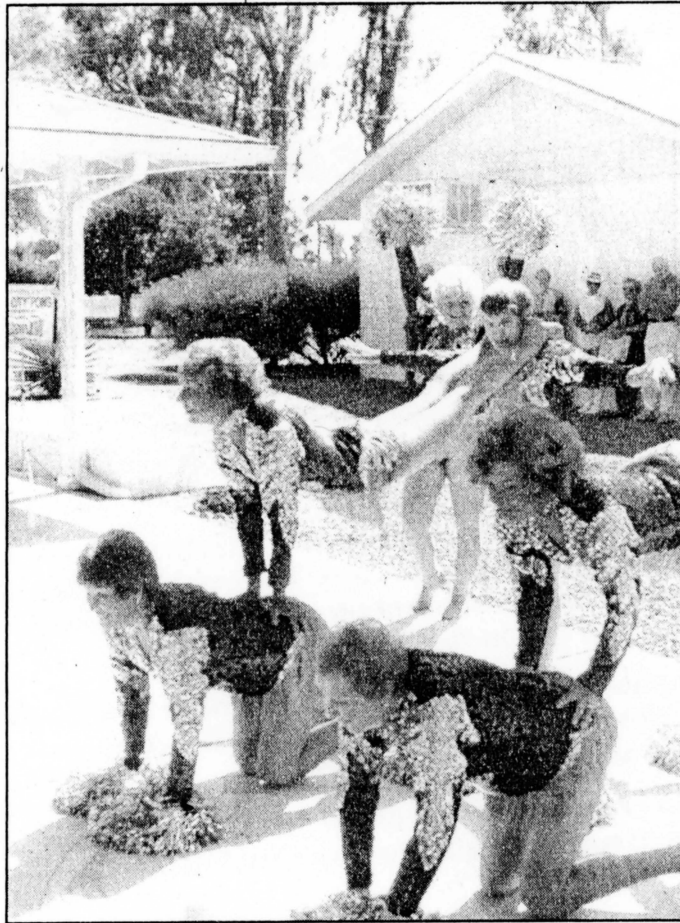


Photo submitted by David Verble/Special to the Independent

## Poms pump up crowd

The Sun City Poms celebrated their 25th anniversary by doing what they are famous for — their Signature Poms Routine. The acrobatic routine, which includes headstands, handstands, cartwheels and splits, was performed at the Sun Cities Historical Society, where the silver celebration was held April 21. Visitors enjoyed watching the routine, eating carrot cake and sipping punch, and viewing the Poms memorabilia on display at the Society. Three original Poms (now retired) shared their experiences about what it was like to be a Pom “back in 1979.” Current Poms range in age from 62 to 80 years. For more information about the Sun City Poms, call (602) 392-4242.



## *Sun Cities Area Historical Society*

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1986. In May of 1989, it bought the first model home built by the Del Webb Corporation, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City, and established it as its headquarters.

Since, hundreds of visitors have come to the Society to see the exhibits of Sun City and Sun City West. The exhibit of Marinette, a town that preceded Sun City, intrigues visitors with its mule teams, tent cities and cotton fields.

Historical pamphlets and books tell the story of Marinette, Sun City, Sun City West, Lizard Acres and Vulture Road and are available for sale at the Society.

The Society also has memorabilia of the Sun City Saints, a past all-girl championship softball team, the Sun City PRIDES and the Sun City Poms.

The Society is open from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Private tours may be arranged. A Speakers Bureau also is available for your club, group or organization.

The Society needs volunteer hosts and hostesses to help conduct tours of the museum. Training is provided. For more information call 623 974-2568.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting the history of the Sun Cities.

## Historical Society on Summer hours

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will change its open hours beginning Friday, June 4. Throughout June, July and August the Society will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to Noon on Fridays and Saturdays. Private tours may be scheduled by calling the Society.

The Society is located at 10801

Oakmont Drive, Sun City, in the first model home built by Del Webb. It is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting the history of the Sun Cities. For more information call (623) 974-2568 or visit [www.scazhistory.org](http://www.scazhistory.org).

## THE WESTER June 10, 2004 Sun Cities area Historical Society

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has many historical books and pamphlets for sale at its headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. Books include: "Del Webb: A Man, A Company," "Along the Old Vulture Road," "Jubilee The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona," "Churches of the Sun Cities," and "Sun City West Silver Celebration" (also available at the Sun City West Visitors Center,

13823 Camino del Sol).

Pamphlets cover a wide range of topics and can be purchased individually or in a packet of 26. The Society is located in the first model home built by Del Webb and is open throughout the summer from 10 a.m. to Noon on Friday and Saturday. Private tours also may be arranged.

For information call (623) 974-2568 or visit their web site at: [www.scazhistory.org](http://www.scazhistory.org)



## *Sun Cities Area Historical Society*

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society's summer hours will be effective beginning Friday, June 4. The Society will be open to the public on Fridays and Saturdays only, from 10 a.m. to noon. Summer hours are effective June through August.

Private tours may be arranged on other days and times however, by calling the Society. One of the Society's friendly hosts or hostesses will be glad to conduct tours of the museum for you.

The Society's Speakers Bureau also is available throughout the summer for presentations to your club, group or organization. Call the Speakers Bureau chairman to make arrangements.

This year mark's the Society's 15th year at its location. In May of 1989, the Society purchased the first model home built by the Del Webb Corporation, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City, and established it as its headquarters.

Today the model home is filled with exhibits, memorabilia and historical pamphlets and books that capture the stories of Marinette and Del Webb's "sister cities" Sun City and Sun City West.

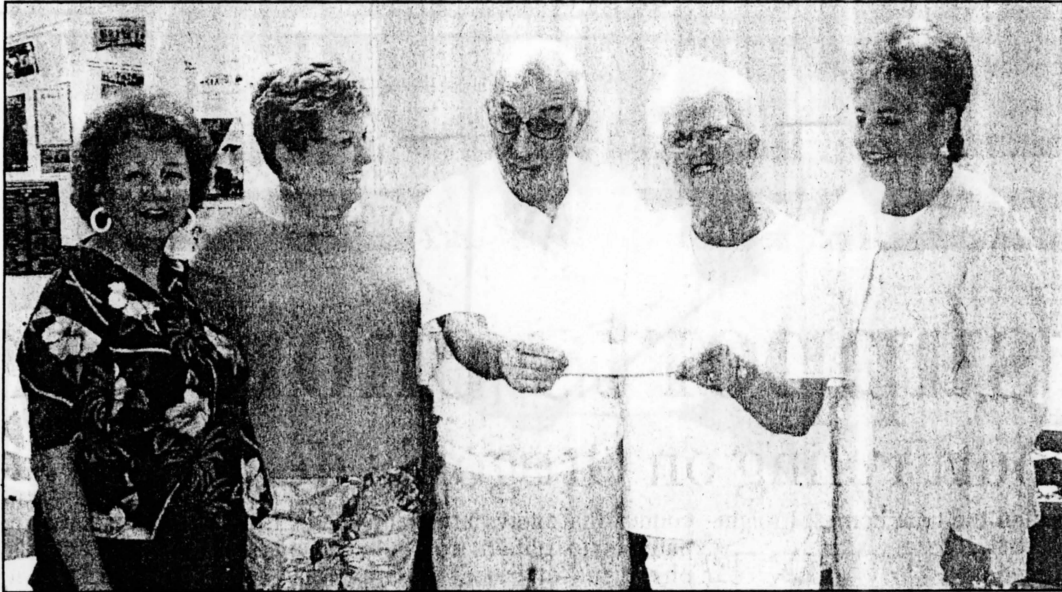
The model home is air conditioned, so stay cool, learn some history and stop by your Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting the history of the Sun Cities.

For more information call 623 974-2568 or log onto the Society's web site located at <http://www.scazhistory.org> and "visit" the Society via the web.

June 16, 2004 p. 2

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Submitted photo

## Preserving history

Quester Chapter Lysiloma No. 782 recently presented a check for \$500 to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. Society Vice President Paul Gaff accepted the check from Lysiloma President Ginny Goodwin. The Questers raised money from a garage sale held in Sun City West. Questers is a non profit, international organization whose goals are to further the study and collection of antiques and to encourage the preservation and restoration of historical landmarks. The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City in the first model home built by Del Webb. Pictured, from left, Lyn Dunham, Nancy Wyatt, Paul Graff, Ginny Goodwin and Sylvia Patrick.

**A2** TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2004

DAILY NEWS-SUN

## ODDS & ENDS

### Out of the past

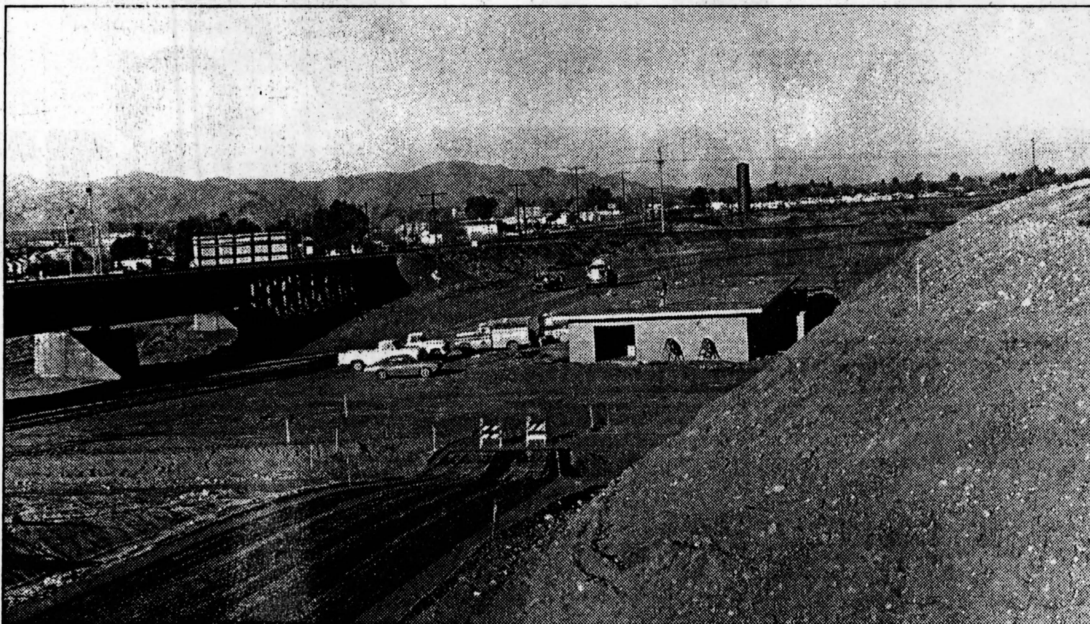


PHOTO COURTESY OF SUN CITIES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sun City Stadium is shown under construction. The photo was published in 1974 in the Daily News-Sun.

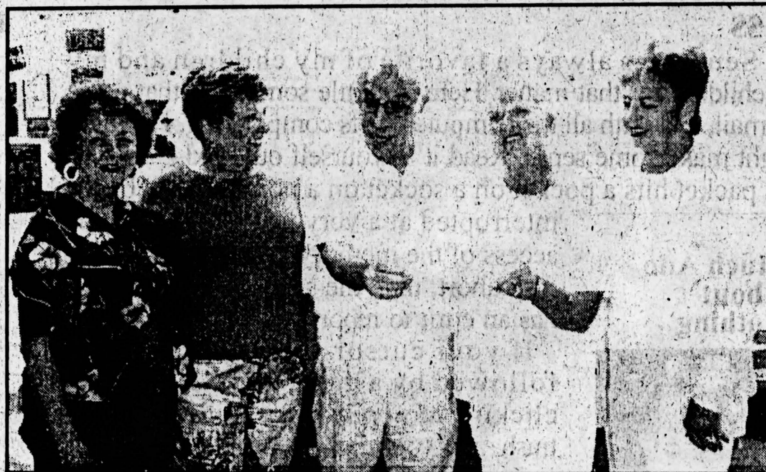
DAILY NEWS-SUN

● Quester Chapter Lysiloma 782 recently presented a check for \$500 to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. Society Vice President Paul Graff accepted the check from Lysiloma President Ginny Goodwin. The Questers raised the money from a garage in Sun City West. Questers is a nonprofit, international organization whose aims are to further the study and collection of antiques and to encourage the preservation and restoration of historical landmarks.

MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2004

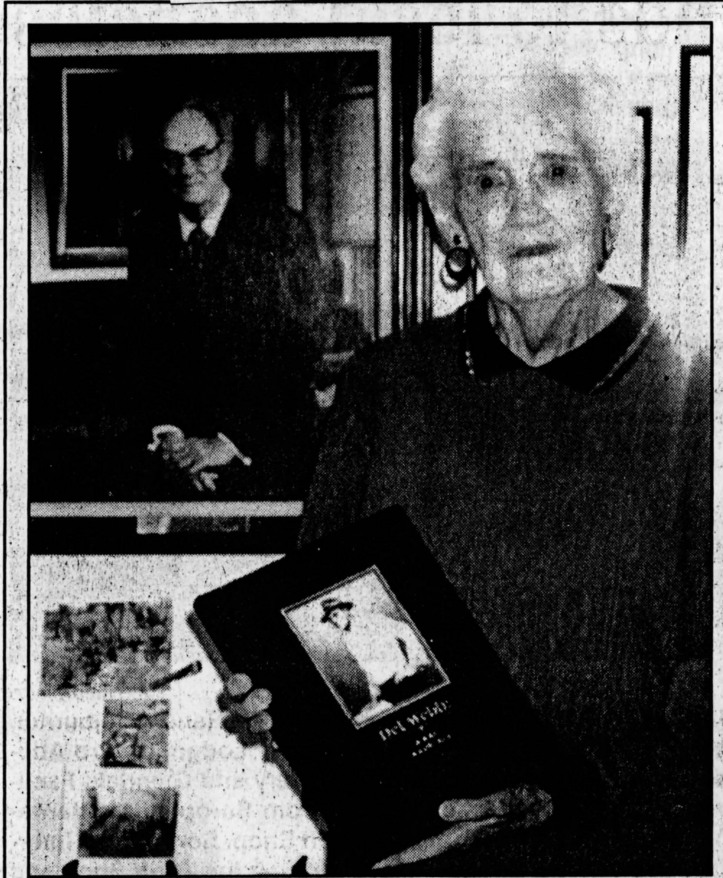
Thursday, June 24, 2004 THE WESTER Page 5

## Questers find a good cause



Quester Chapter Lysiloma #782 recently presented a check for \$500 to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. Society Vice Pres. Paul Graff (center) accepted the check from Lysiloma Pres. Ginny Goodwin (second from right). The Questers raised the money from a garage sale it held in Sun City West. Questers is a non-profit, international organization whose aims are to further the study and collection of antiques and to encourage the preservation and restoration of historic landmarks. Shown are (l. to r.) Lyn Dunham, Nancy Wyatt, Graff, Goodwin and Sylvia Patrick.

P.8 June 30, 2004



Submitted photo

## History lesson

Ruth Morton of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society holds a copy of the "Del Webb" book. Sun Cities Area Historical Society has many historical books for sale at its headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. Headquarters are open from 10 am to noon Fridays and Saturdays during the summer. For information, call 974-2568 or visit [www.scazhistory.org](http://www.scazhistory.org).

SUN VIEWS

SC Rec. Cntr

. July 2004



## *Sun Cities Area Historical Society*

For new residents and veteran Sun Citians alike, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a great place to learn the history of the Sun Cities area.

The Society is headquartered in the first model home built by the Del Webb Corporation, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. Today, the home is a museum filled with exhibits, memorabilia and historical pamphlets and books that capture the stories of Marinette (a town that preceded Sun City) and Del Webb's "Sister Cities" — Sun City and Sun City West.

Throughout June, July and August the Society is open to the public from 10 a.m. to noon on Fridays and Saturdays. Private tours may be arranged. The Society's Speakers Bureau also is available for your club, group or organization.

For more information call 623 974-2568 or visit the Society's web site at <http://www.scazhistory.org>.



## *Sun Cities Area Historical Society*

Learn more about the history of the Sun Cities area this summer with a visit to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

The Society is headquartered in the first model home built by the Del Webb Corporation, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. The Society serves as a museum, exhibition space, and multifaceted resource center for residents of the Sun Cities and visitors throughout the United States and overseas.

Tours are conducted from 10 a.m. to noon on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the summer months. Private tours also may be scheduled. Admission is free, however donations are welcome. The Society's Speakers Bureau also is available for your club, group or organization.

The Society has many interesting historical pamphlets and books for sale at its headquarters. Add one of the following books available at the Society to your summer reading: *Del Webb: A Man, A Company*; *Along the Old Vulture Road*, *Churches of the Sun Cities*, *Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona*, and *Sun City West Silver Celebration*.

For more information call 623 974-2568 or visit the Society's web site at <http://www.scazhistory.org>.

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DAILY NEWS-SUN

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TUESDAY, SEPT. 7, 2004 **A3**

● The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will resume winter hours from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. September through May. The society, at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City, was the first of the five model homes showcased in January 1960.

The society is trying to furnish the kitchen to reflect the 1960 era. Items needed include a small table and four chairs, stainless steel table setting for four, a wall clock and a 1960 washing machine, which does not need to be in working order. For information on donating or touring, call 974-2568.

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**A4** WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 1, 2004

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DAILY NEWS-SUN

## **SC Historical Society opens for season**

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will resume winter hours from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. September through May.

The society is just west of Oakmont Recreation Center, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, in the first of five model homes Del Webb showcased in January 1960.

The society is trying to furnish the kitchen to reflect the 1960s. Items needed include a small table and four chairs, stainless steel table settings for four, a wall clock and a 1960 washing machine, which need not be in working order.

Small groups wishing to visit the society are welcome. Speakers also are available. For information, call 974-2568.



## *Sun Cities Area Historical Society*

It was an exciting year...

U-2 pilot Gary Powers was shot down over Russia. "To Kill a Mockingbird" was the best seller. "Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini" was number one on the hit parade. Sun City opened, and yes, the year was 1960.

Now, forty-four years later we are on a treasure hunt. One of our projects is to restore our kitchen to the 60's look...as it was on opening day.

We are off to a good start; we have a refrigerator (which needs defrosting) and a gas range. Board member, Jo Ruck, has given us a Universal coffeemaker and a Sunbeam toaster.

What do we need? We need a washing machine and yes, it was in the kitchen; a small dinette table with four chairs, a wall clock, a table setting for four and miscellaneous kitchen items.

To accomplish this, we need your help. If you have any of these items we would like to hear from you at 623 974-2568, or better yet, come visit the first model home in Sun City located at 10801 Oakmont Drive. We are open Tuesday through Friday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.



## *Sun Cities Area Historical Society*

The Historical Society is now open Tuesday through Friday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. For those looking for a leisurely activity, the Society is a great place to visit.

Some people might say the Sun Cities are not old enough to have a history and that is why the Society's mission is to collect records and artifacts now and preserve them for posterity. "Today is tomorrow's history" is their motto.

The Society has earned a reputation among colleges and universities as a viable research resource for those doing research on planned communities and retirement living. This summer students from ASU, Germany and Japan used resources from the Society.

For those who like to meet people from all walks of life from the U.S. and abroad, the Society is a great place to volunteer.

Here are a couple of historical tidbits for RCSC members. The Lakes West Golf Course opened for play in October 1969, and the balls started to roll at the Lakeview Bowling Lanes in 1971.

For more information, call 623 974-5377.



SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*Let's Go!*

## FALL PROGRAM & ANNUAL MEETING

November 3, 2004 - 12 Noon Luncheon  
Palmbrook Country Club, 9350 Greenway, Sun City

### PROGRAM

*"How Arizona Did and Did Not Get Its Name"*

Speaker: *Jim Turner*

*Community Outreach Historian - Arizona Historical Society, Tucson*

This should be a most interesting program, as Mr. Turner has devoted his career to the preservation and presentation of Arizona history.

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LUNCHEON RESERVATION - Due October 27, 2004

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for the luncheon at \$15.00 each. Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Make check payable to SCAHS and mail to address below.

10801 Oakmont Dr. • Sun City, Arizona 85351-3317 • (623) 974-2568

Website: [www.scazhistory.org](http://www.scazhistory.org)

E-mail: [scahs@frys.com](mailto:scahs@frys.com)

## State historian to address local society

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Wednesday, Nov. 3, at the Palmbrook Country Club, 9315 Greenway, Sun City. The event is open to the public.

A social hour begins at 11:30 a.m., luncheon at Noon and the program at 1 p.m. Luncheon cost is \$15 per person.

Reservations are needed by Oct. 27. Make checks payable to SCAHS and mail to 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City 85351.

Jim Turner, community outreach historian with the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, will answer the often asked question, "How Arizona Did and Did Not Get Its Name."

Turner moved to Tucson in 1951 and began a serious study of Arizona in 1984. Many of his historical articles have appeared in the Journal of Arizona History and many other publications. He has given presentations, conducted tours and taught Arizona History at University of Arizona, Pima Community College and the Arizona Historical Society.

His duties as community outreach coordinator allows him to visit the more than sixty history museums throughout the state.

For further information call SCAHS at (623) 974-5377.

## Historian debates state's name origin

### STAFF REPORT

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will have its annual meeting and luncheon Nov. 3 in Palmbrook Country Club, 9315 Greenway Road, Sun City.

The public is invited. A social period begins at 11:30 a.m., with lunch at noon and the program at 1.

Lunch is \$15, and reservations are required by Oct. 27. Checks made out to SCAHS can be mailed to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351.

Jim Turner, community outreach historian with the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson, will discuss the much debated topic of "How

Arizona Did and Did Not Get Its Name."

Turner moved to Tucson in 1951 and began studying Arizona in 1984. Many of his historical articles have appeared in the Journal of Arizona History, as well as other publications. He also has given presentations, conducted tours and taught Arizona history at the University of Arizona, Pima Community College and the Arizona Historical Society.

Turner's duties as community outreach coordinator allow him to visit more than 60 history museums in the state.

For information about the annual meeting and luncheon, call 974-2568 or 974-5377.

SATURDAY, OCT. 9, AND SUNDAY, OCT. 10, 2004 **A3**



TURNER

### Historical Society hosts luncheon

Jim Turner, a community out-

reach historian, will talk about "How Arizona Did and Did Not Get Its Name" at a 12 p.m. Nov. 3 luncheon at the Palmbrook Country Club, 9350 Greenway Road.

Cost \$15 per person. Reservations must be received by Oct. 27. Make checks payable to SCAHS and mail to 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, AZ, 85351.

### Historical society books speaker

Jim Turner, community outreach historian for the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson, will discuss "How Arizona Did and Did Not Get Its Name" at the fall meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society at noon Wednesday, Nov. 3, in Palmbrook Country Club, 9350 Greenway Road, Sun City.

Cost is \$15, and reservations are due Wednesday. Make checks payable to SCAHS and mail to 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351.

DAILY NEWS-SUN TUESDAY, OCT. 26, 2004 **A3**

B4

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

October 20, 2004

# Historian debates state's name origin

Arizona Did and Did Not Get its Name

Turner moved to Tucson in 1951 and began studying Arizona history. Many of his historical articles have appeared in the Journal of Arizona History, as well as other publications. He also has given presentations on the history of the University of Arizona, Park Community College and the Arizona Historical Society.

Turner's duties as community outreach coordinator not only allow him to visit more than 50 history museums in the state, but also to give presentations at historical societies and historical events throughout the state.

For information about the annual meeting and luncheon call 974-2525 or 974-8375.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will have its annual meeting and luncheon Nov. 3 in Palmbrook Country Club, 9315 Greenway Road, Sun City.

The luncheon is invited. A social program begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at noon and the program at 1:30 p.m. Lunch is \$15, and reservations are required by Oct. 27. Checks made out to SCASHS can be mailed to the Sun City Area Historical Society, 10401 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351.

Jim Turner, community outreach historian with the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson, will discuss the much debated topic of "How

State historian to address local society

For further information call SCASHS at (602) 974-2525.

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A social hour begins at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon at noon and the program at 1 p.m. Luncheon cost is \$15 per person.

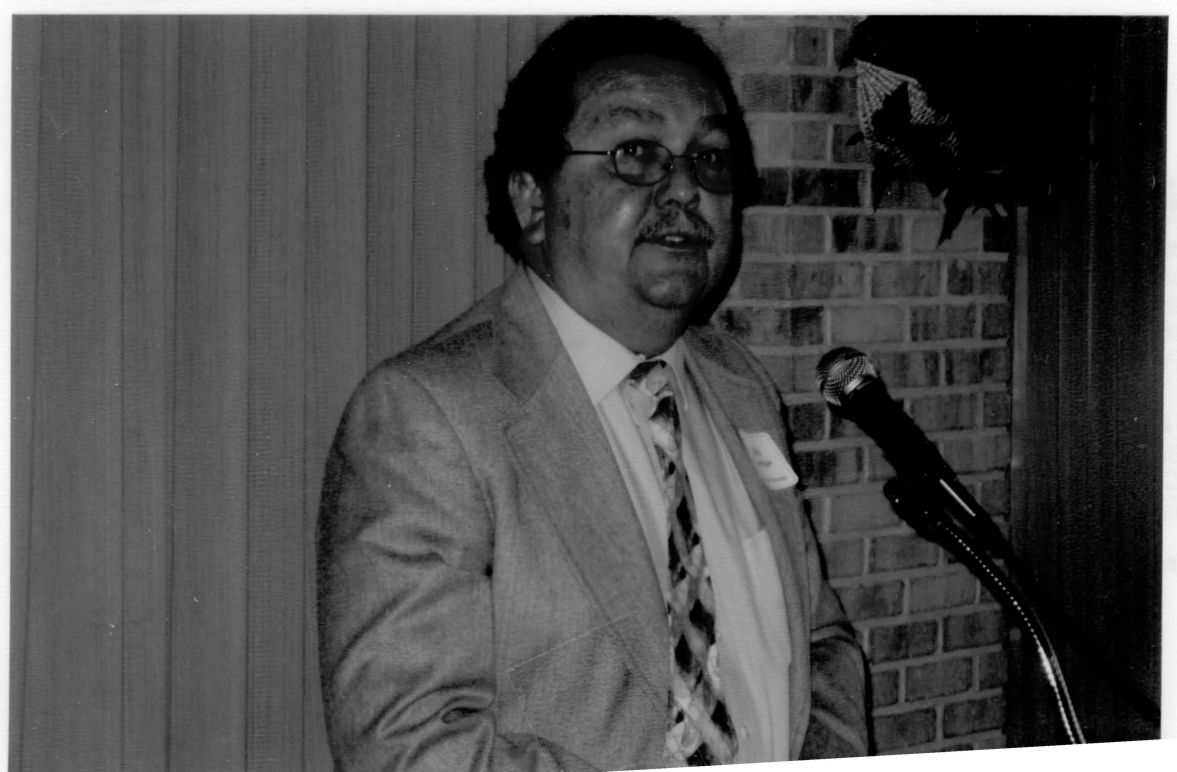
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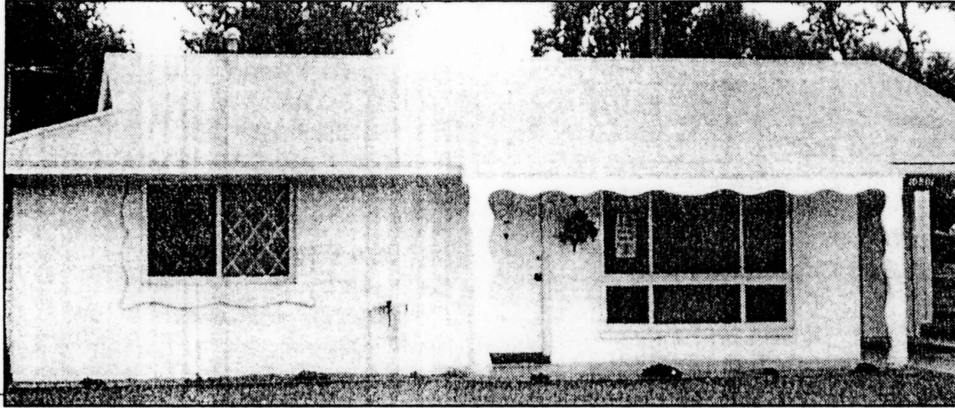
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SATURDAY, OCT. 9 AND SUNDAY, OCT. 10, 2004 A3



Historian  
- Jim Turner  
Sun City  
the Sun City  
Nov. 3 to  
Sun City  
Club, 9315  
Greenway, Sun  
City. The event  
is open to the  
public.

## Get to Know Sun City's History



Cooler weather has arrived, the "snowbirds" are returning and activities are moving full speed ahead. Although not an activity, per se, but a visit to the Historical Society is an enjoyable way to spend some time.

One exhibit is the Marinette Room- "Life Before Sun City." R.P. Davie, a business adventurer from Marinette, Wisconsin bought thousands of acres and developed a deep well pumping system for irrigation. Like the founders of Peoria, he plotted a townsite and named it after his home town, Marinette. The US Post Office opened in 1912, the year the area received statehood.

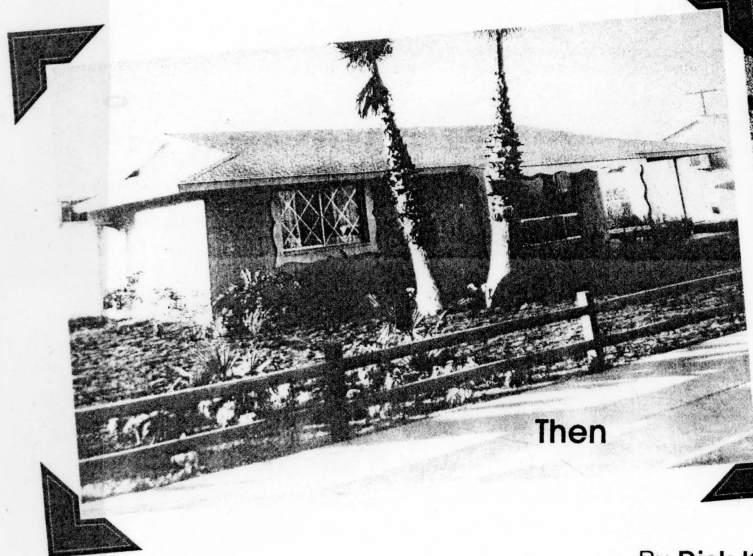
Farming was not profitable and Mr. Davie sold his land in 1920 to the Southwest Cotton Company (a subsidiary of the

Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company) and the town became a company compound.

In 1936, the Marinette Ranch was sold again to the J.G. Boswell Company who successfully farmed the land in cotton. It was twenty-three years later, in 1959, when Boswell released some of the land to Del Webb to build a community. Marinette became Sun City.

Visit the Society and see some of the early pictures of Marinette and visualize living during that era. The Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive. The hours are Tuesday through Friday from 1:30- 3:30 p.m. and other hours by appointment. Speakers are also available for groups desiring a program. Call 623-974-2568 for more information.

# Sun Cities Area Historical Society...



Then



Now

## Something to Celebrate!



By Dick Kemp

*The history of every country begins  
in the heart of a man or a woman.*

—Willa Cather

In its 45 short years, Sun City has compiled a treasure trove of traditions:

- A concept so appealing that 237 homes were sold its opening weekend.
- A beginning so successful that it was featured in such magazines as *Life*, *Look* and *Time*.
- A citizenry so giving it could honestly bill itself the City of Volunteers.
- A legacy so valuable that the name of its founder—Del Webb—is attached to 32 current developments nationwide, and a dozen or so which have been “built out.”

With such a glorious start, but with no elected government, Sun City’s history had to begin in someone’s heart.

That someone is the Sun Cities Area Historical Society (SCAHS) which celebrates a 15th anniversary in January – centralizing its amazing collection of facts, photos and displays at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City’s first model home.

Enthusiastic founder, supporter Jane Freeman, a SCAHS founder who has served multiple terms as president, is currently secretary and publicist. She



believes Sun Citians are proud of their communities, yet many are unaware of the Oakmont facility.

“This land had a rich history before the Sun Cities. It was a stage stop between Wickenburg and Phoenix, then beet and cotton ranches and the Lizard Acres feed lot,” she says.

“These we depict, along with photos of Sun City formation and early resident activities. We have books, pamphlets, displays, maps, memorabilia, obituaries, oral histories and photographs.”

Many residents are curious about the man whose name is attached to the Sun Cities. Jane Freeman and Glenn Sandberg, another SCAHS founder, co-authored *Jubilee, The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona*. Published in 1985, 11 years after the death of Del Webb, its dedication read:

*To Delbert Eugene Webb, a man of genius, who, together with men of competence, courage and foresight, explored and conquered untried frontiers that opened new vistas for thousands of retired Americans.*

SCAHS has a wealth of material on this fascinating semi-pro pitcher turned carpenter, contractor, New York Yankee co-owner and Phoenix-based developer.

**Hail to the pioneer spirit**

Jubilee was also dedicated to those Sun City Pioneers who dared to leave

## IF YOU GO

**OPEN:** Tuesday through Friday, 1:30-3:30 p.m. (Sept. thru May); Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon (June, July, August)

**LOCATION:** 10801 Oakmont Dr., Sun City (just west of Oakmont Rec Center) Parking directly across the street

**MEMBERSHIP:** Individual, \$10; Family, \$15; Organization, \$25; Business, \$50

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Phone: 623-974-2568  
Email: scahs@frys.com, Web site: scazhistory.org

*old ties to establish new homes, new friends and a whole new way of life.*

"I know of only one resident still alive who moved here in 1960-'62," says Jane Freeman. "But we have oral histories from many pioneers, along with many items donated by their estates.

"It's that Del Webb-early residents spirit that we want to keep alive.

"Even though the Sun City idea has been copied all over America, how many communities can boast groups like the PRIDES and Sheriff's Posse? And how many have hospitals with more volunteers per bed than any other hospital in America?"

### Society has a history, too

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a pretty compelling story itself.

Its genesis was in 1985, at the Sun City Press Council, interested citizens gathered to decide "who should write a history of Sun City." After publication of the 272-page Jubilee, attention turned to preserving the town's history.

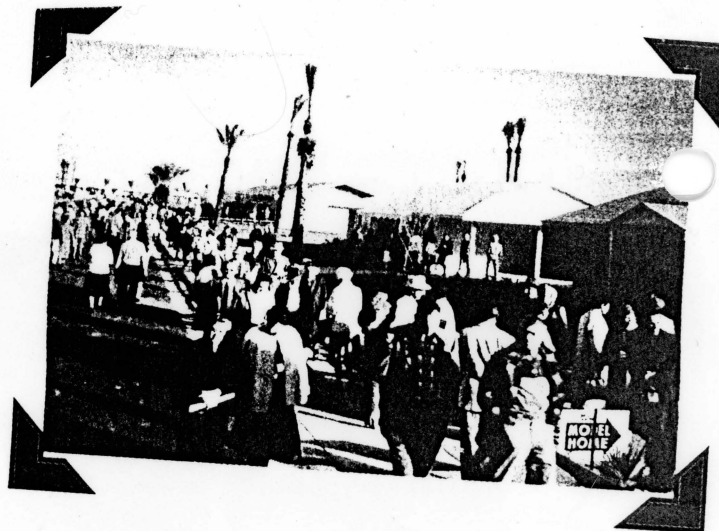
SCAHS incorporated in 1986. It began collecting memorabilia housed in several locations until a "stroke of luck" occurred in early 1989, when the smallest of Sun City's first model homes was for sale.

Rita Wright, who with husband Eugene helped start SCAHS and edit Jubilee, says the Kentworth, only 858 square feet, sold in 1960 for \$8,500.

"Air conditioning was \$600 extra, and a golf course lot \$1,250. After an expansion, it went on sale in 1989, for \$41,500. We all saw the value of housing our displays in this home, but didn't have the funds to buy it."

Stepping up with needed donations were the Webb Corporation, Del E. Webb Foundation and the J.G. Boswell Co., Webb partner and owner of the farm land on which Sun City is built.

"We know that many residents of our three Sun Cities are curious about how and who started the first community in the world tied to active retirement," says Rita Wright. "Once they visit us, I believe they'll return with friends and visitors."



### Satisfying a need

There is no bigger booster of the SCAHS than Mary Anne Leyshon, editor of the Daily News-Sun.

"Not only does this organization serve a distinct need for the Sun Cities, it helps our newspaper immeasurably with background material for daily reporting on the three communities.

"I use Jubilee, and Silver Celebration, the 25-year history of Sun City West, as an invaluable reference sources.

"The Society's displays and materials are probably under used and under appreciated. People moving here from all over America need to feel connected to their new home town," says Mary Anne. "The Historical Society provides these roots."

In addition to satisfying their intellectual curiosity, visitors to the Society's "museum" will be treated to visual reminders of the '60s.

Melmac dinnerware, refrigerator, stove, coffee pot and toaster are among the early 1960s items on display in the small kitchen.

### Volunteering, membership opportunities

SCAHS reaches out to the Sun Cities, with semi-annual public programs. Also, it offers speakers and programs (call 623-974-2568).

"Not only are we seeking more members, but volunteers as well," says Jane Freeman. She listed skills needed as:

- 1) Hosts and hostesses.
- 2) Graphic and organization skills to help construct better displays of materials
- 3) Planners of special events and programs.
- 4) Publicity specialists.

"If it's been a while since you've visited us, you'll be amazed at our progress. We're a great way to entertain visitors, too.

"If you have never been here, I think you have a treat in store."

## "Place Of The Good Oak Tree"

January is a time to look ahead at the future and also to reflect on the past. Thanks to donations improvements have been made to the interior and exterior of the Historical Society, new carpeting has been installed and new signage makes the Society easier to find.

Jim Turner, Arizona Historical Society historian, spoke at the annual membership meeting in November and told the story of "How Arizona Did and Did Not Get Its Name." Throughout most of the Spanish rule in the New World, 80 percent of the immigrants were of Basque origin and by the 1730s, the unique language of this culture in northern Spain was as common in southern Arizona as Spanish.

Many theories abound, all centered around the silver mining areas but the name 'Arizona' has nothing to do with

silver. The Basque word for oak tree is "artiz" and the word for good is "ona." Hence many Arizona historians currently agree that the state's name is a Basque word meaning "place of the good oak tree." The region in question boasts five types of oak trees. There is no "tz" sound in Spanish, so the "t" would logically be dropped, leaving the closest match to the word "Arizona."

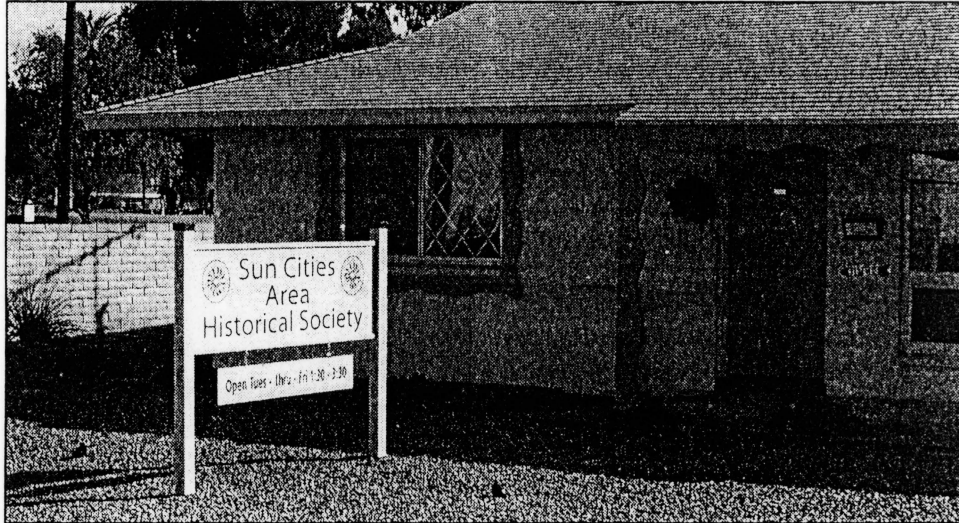
As an aside, the Basques were known to have immigrated to South and Central America and no less than nine locations of their early settlements bear the name "Arizona." One wonders if they have oak trees.

Looking ahead, a plea is issued for volunteers who can help capture the history as it happens in the Sun Cities and preserve it for future generations.

For further information, call the Society at 623-974-2568.

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## Gold Rush Helps Name Busy Road



As you travel along Grand Avenue these busy winter days, jockeying for a position in the crowded lanes of traffic, perhaps it would seem less hectic if you could conjure up thoughts of the days when Grand Avenue was named Vulture Road.

In 1863 a German mineralogist, Henry Wickenburg, prospected in the hills northwest of Sun City and made the greatest gold discovery in Arizona. Eight mule teams were hauling gold and freight, making tri-weekly trips to the growing settlement now known as Wickenburg by traversing Vulture Road, all fifty-four miles of it.

By 1908 the Vulture Road had

become a "Grand Avenue," as it is now named, because of the heavy use of the route for wagons loaded with produce and supplies between Wickenburg and growing agricultural areas in the Salt River Valley.

Visit the newly refurbished Marinette Room of the Sun Cities Historical Society and learn how "Vulture" was named. The Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive and is open Tuesday through Friday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. and other hours by appointment. Speakers are also available for groups desiring a program. Call 974-2568 for more information.

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# Where's Marinette?

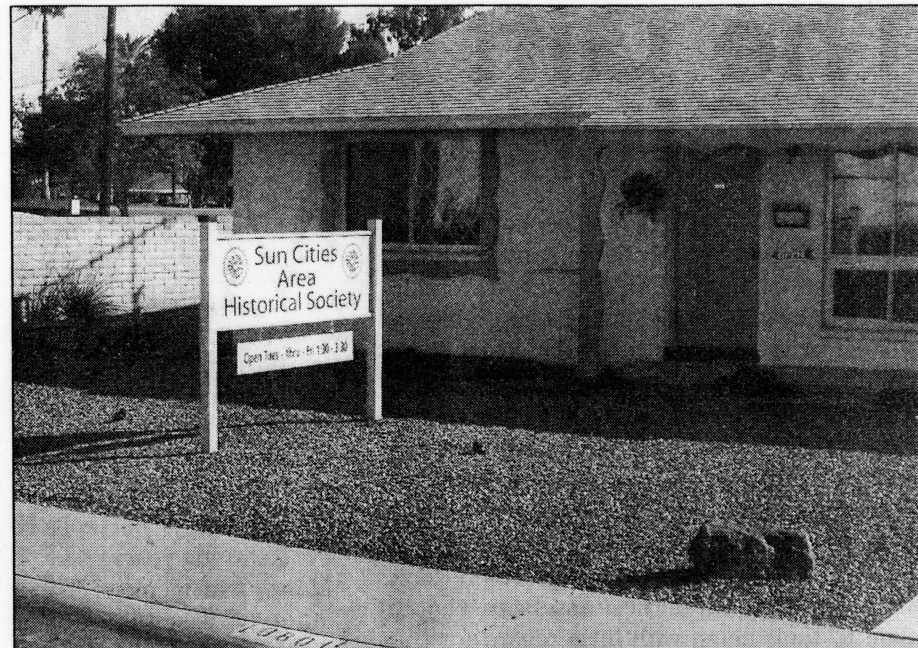
The Sun City area was first called Marinette! A century ago a businessman decided to try his luck at sugar beet farming in the desert. When his crops failed he sold the land to Goodyear Tire and Rubber, and Marinette became a farming community for Goodyear's Southwest Cotton Company. That first settler was from Marinette, Wisconsin, and northerners have been discovering the Valley ever since!

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has a wealth of information about the early days of our community—and they look forward to sharing it with you. Did you know this entire area was agricultural until 1959? That is the year the J.G. Boswell company, which had farmed the land since

1936, learned that Del Webb was planning a new concept for an adult community. They offered to sell Webb a portion of the Marinette Ranch—he surprised them by buying the entire 20,000 acres.

In 1960 Del Webb opened Sun City; and the rest is history. The phenomenal success of the original concept led to the construction of Sun City West in 1978. Learn more about the amazing changes that have occurred in this place we call home by becoming a member of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. It's a great way to increase your understanding and appreciation of the Sun Cities.

Founded in 1986, the Historical Society purchased Sun City's first model home as its headquarters in



1989. The home is open for tours Tuesday through Friday from 1:30-3:30 p.m. and is filled with displays on the early days of Marinette and the Sun Cities. Visit us at 10801 Oakmont

Drive, Sun City. Call (623) 974-2568 for more information.

*Thanks to Jane Freeman of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society for this enlightening history lesson.*

## **Hohokam Nation Began Arizona's Agriculture Success**

Most Sun City residents know that the land where their homes sit was once productive farmland. Agriculture in Arizona prospered despite being a part of the Sonoran Desert, the hottest, driest area in North America.

Archaeologists agree that the area we now call Arizona was inhabited by an aboriginal people known as the Hohokam and it was these people who are noted for their sophisticated irrigation systems. The Hohokams diverted water from the Salt and Gila Rivers into a complex system of canals, all dug by hand. And yet in 1858 our Congress thought this area worthless.

On March 5, before or after visiting the Oakmont Open House/Fun Fair, come to the Historical Society's Open House right next door. For further information call 974-2568, Tuesday through Friday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

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# Where's Marinette?

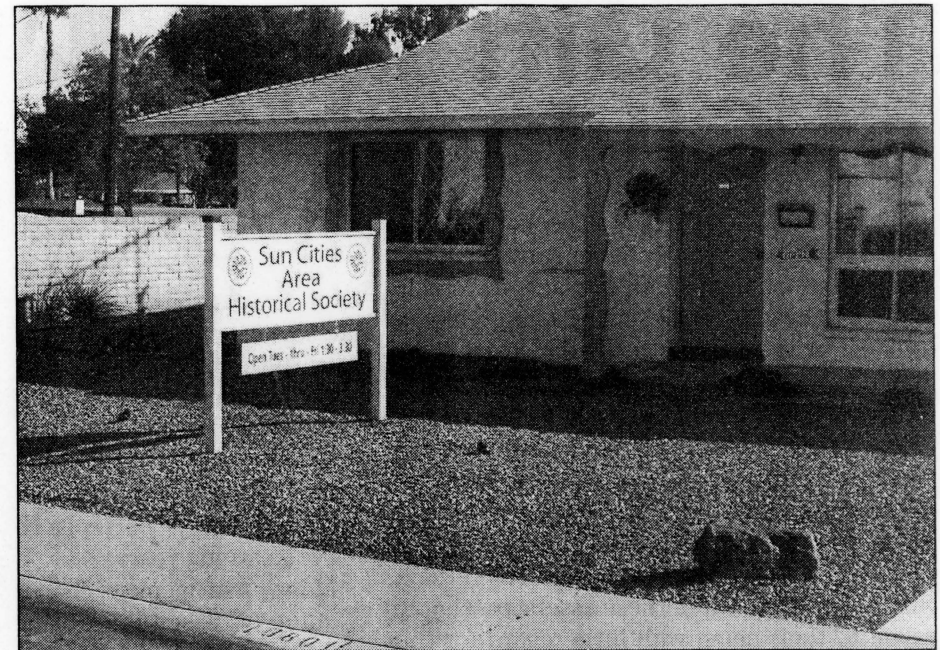
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*Thanks to Jane Freeman of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society for this enlightening history lesson.*

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Ruby Shares Sun City's History



Ruby Wells, volunteer for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, is an avid history buff with plenty of incoming information to keep her

busy. A Sun City resident for nearly 15 years, Ruby knows a thing or two about the town's history and enjoys sharing it with visitors to the Society. She also enjoys hearing stories from residents who witnessed the historical events first-hand and who provide input to further her knowledge of the history of the Sun Cities.

She says her favorite part of the job is "When older residents come in and tell stories and verify what you've read and inform you of things you don't know and you can then check it out and relay it on to newcomers."

Ruby moved to Sun City with her husband, Albert, after he got transferred to the area through his job as a manager for an aircraft repair company. The couple has two daughters in Denver, Colorado, where they spent many years. Ruby, however, grew up in St. Joseph, Missouri and still has family in the area.

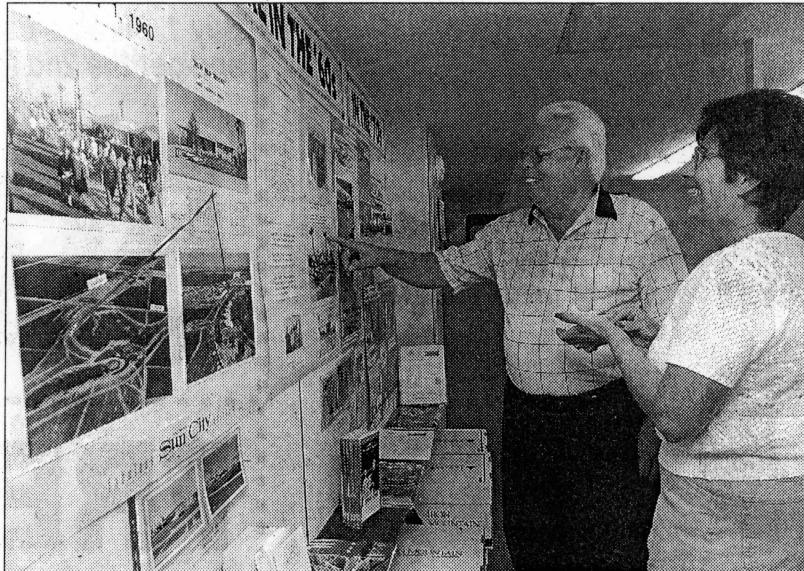
Ruby has been volunteering at the Historical Society for 1 1/2 years on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 p.m. She organizes the

information given to the Society and gives tours of the facility. The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is located in the oldest house in Sun City where it has been for 15 years. There's the original four rooms, a living room the Society uses as a lobby area, a kitchen kept in the style of the 1960's, a master bedroom, and a bathroom complete with original tile work. There was an addition to the house built by previous owners the Historical Society uses to showcase several items collected through the years.

There's a section for each of the decades of Sun City's existence; 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, and present day. It shows everything from Del Webb's first housing development to the construction of the Centers' to the Sun City Saints baseball team. The Society even has a room, called the Marinette Room, which showcases the area as it was prior to the 1960s. In addition to the information the Society offers on site, there are books available for purchase including *Jubilee*, a book published in 1985 celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Sun City. The Historical Society also has a collection of the history of Sun City West.

Ruby also volunteers for Meals on Wheels and as a monitor for the Sun City Computer Club. The Historical Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive and is open Tuesday through Friday, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Take a few minutes to look around and discover what made Sun City what it is today.

# Festivities abound around town



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Terry Weatherly, left, and Marlene Forslin, both of Sun City West, look at the historical displays at the Sun Cities Historical Society open house March 5.



Submitted photo

## Historic Figure

Sam Ferguson II, local teacher, actor and historian, portrays Jack Swilling, the founder of Phoenix, Arizona. Guests can step back in time to 1867 and hear how Mr. Swilling came to the area after the Civil War and cleared canals left by the ancient Hohokam to turn the desert into a flourishing agricultural spot. The program, sponsored by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, will take place 12:30 p.m. April 6 at the Madison, 18626 Spanish Garden Drive in Sun City West. Admission is free. Call 974-2568.

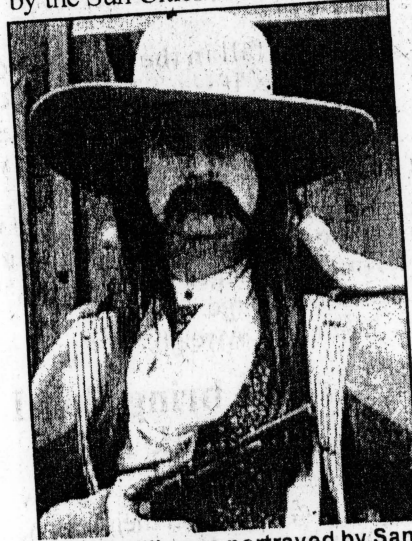
SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT March 30, 2005 P.4

## Learn how Phoenix became a city

Meet Jack Swilling, the founder of Phoenix, Ariz. Step back in time to 1867 and hear how he came to the area after the Civil War, how he cleared the canals left by the ancient Hohokam tribe to turn the desert into a flourishing agricultural area and why he is credited with naming the city that eventually emerged.

Swilling will be portrayed by Sam Ferguson, II, prominent actor, teacher and historian.

This program, being sponsored by the Sun Cities Area Historical



Jack Swilling as portrayed by Sam Ferguson.

Society, will take place Wednesday, April 6, with refreshments at 12:30 p.m., program at 1 p.m. The Madison is hosting this event and is located at 18626 Spanish Garden Drive, Sun City West. Admission is free.

For further information call the Society at 623-974-2568.

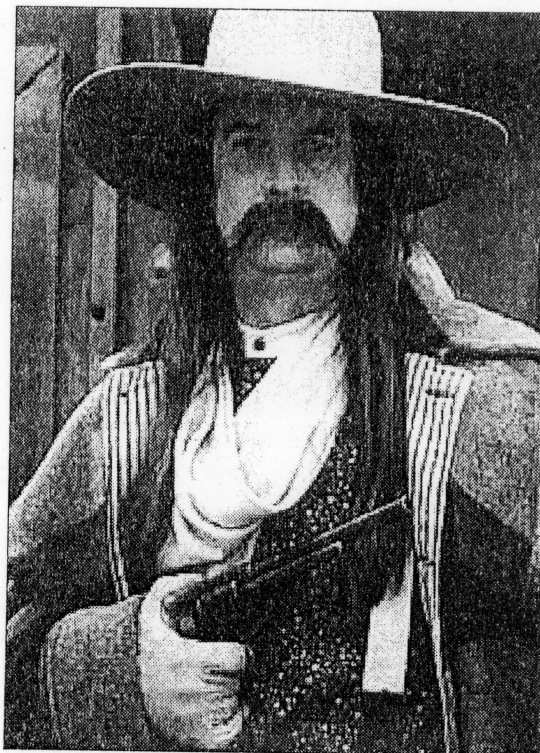
# Up from the dusty desert

STAFF REPORT

**S**am Ferguson II, an actor, teacher and historian, will portray Jack Swilling, the founder of Phoenix, in an April 6 program presented by the Sun Cities Historical Society at The Madison in Sun City West.

Swilling came to the Arizona territory in 1867 after the Civil War, and worked to clear canals left by the Hohokam, turning the desert into a flourishing agricultural area. This work earned him the distinction of naming the city that eventually emerged.

Refreshments will be served at 12:30 p.m., and the program begins at 1. The presentation is free and open to the public. The Madison is at 18626 Spanish Garden Drive, Sun City West. For information, call the society, 974-2568.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sam Ferguson will portray Jack Swilling, the founder of Phoenix, April 6 in a presentation offered by the Sun Cities Historical Society.

*FAMILY MATTERS*

**April 2005**

## Meet Jack Swilling, Founder of Phoenix

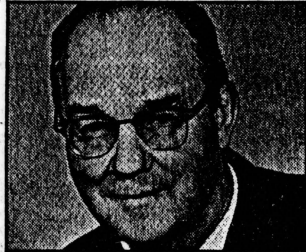
History will come to vibrant life when noted actor, teacher and historian Sam Ferguson II portrays Jack Swilling, the founder of Phoenix. Hosted by *The Madison*, 18626 Spanish Garden Drive, in Sun City West, this living history event takes place on Wednesday, April 6th at 12:30 PM. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Guests will step back in time to 1867 to meet the pioneer visionary who began the process of turning a barren stretch of Arizona desert into a flourishing agricultural area. They will hear the tales of the early days—clearing ancient Hohokam canals, naming the new city—from the perspective of Jack Swilling, Civil War veteran.

This entertaining, enlightening program is presented by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. For additional information contact the Historical Society at 623-974-5268.



## Historical Society Remembers Del Webb



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, and surround himself with men who were aware of the changes taking place in American society, and who had the courage to venture into untried fields.

The late Doug Morris, then president of the Sun City Taxpayers Association, said this of Webb during the eulogy given soon after his death, "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 his vision into "continued" reality for those who reach 65 or older who may feel the challenge is over." This truly gives us a challenge today.

Come visit the Society and get better acquainted with Del Webb and his cohorts. The Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive. The hours are 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and other hours are by appointment. Speakers are also available for groups desiring a program. Call 974-2568 for more information.

## Cotton Growers Migrated To Arizona

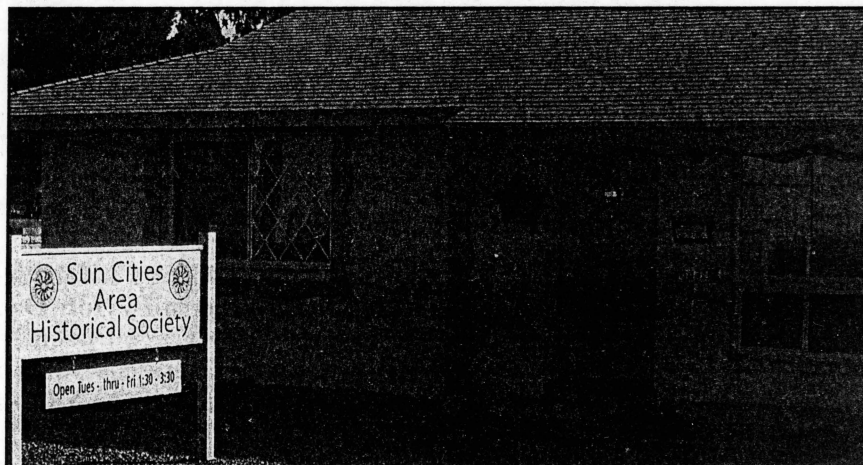
No matter what activity occurs in one's life, there have been "behind the scenes" events and occurrences that must happen to bring about the events of the present day. Are you aware of all the "behind the scenes" scenarios that had to be played out over the years in this area that we now call home?

One piece of the puzzle fell into place after German submarines cut off the supply of long-staple cotton coming into this country in World War I. It was such a problem for the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., that they came to Arizona to grow their own cotton. Cotton in Arizona? Fascinating reason, but another story. At the same time, the Boswell family, Southern gentlemen cotton growers from Georgia—who also operated ranches in California also decided to grow cotton in Arizona. And

grow cotton they did—beautiful, beautiful fields of cotton.

The name Boswell is almost as well known as the name "Webb", i.e. Boswell Hospital, Boswell Boulevard, and so on. As the story unfolds there are fascinating episodes too detailed to record here, but amazingly worked out to provide land for the development of Sun City. Visit the Sun Cities Historical Society and not only read, but see how the relationship grew and hear the twists and turns that occurred making the development of Sun City possible.

The Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive. The hours are Tuesday through Friday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and other hours by appointment. Speakers are also available for groups desiring a program. Call (623) 974-2568 for more information.





## KWAO RADIO

### FM 106.3 \* Program Guide Week of May 10-16, 1980

**NEWS:** Each Hour on the Hour.  
Calendar of Community Events:  
12 times Daily on the Half-Hour

#### YES

Sun City's very own radio station and tower.  
The tower is still in use (behind the  
Grand Avenue Shopping Center)  
but the broadcasting studio is gone.

#### COME HEAR!

Nancy Brandt, former Director of NEWS,  
*"RECALL THE DAYS WHEN"* Sun City was on the air.

DATE: Tuesday, May 10, 2005

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

PLACE : The Sun Cities Area Historical Society  
10801 Oakmont Drive  
Sun City, AZ

PHONE: 623/974-2568



# **Sun City Remembers KWAQ Former News Director Shares Her Memories of Community Radio Station**

When radio was popular, Sun City had its very own radio station - KWAQ. The station was on the air seven days a week from 6 am to midnight. News was given every hour on the hour and community events every half hour. A variety of programs were offered each day and included everything from music of all kinds, interviews with local residents, church programs on Sundays, baseball and other sports events to mention just a few.

The radio tower still stands, behind the Grand Avenue Shopping Center, but KWAQ "signed off" in 1982.

Nancy Brandt, former news director with KWAQ will be at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society on Tuesday, May 10th at 1:00 pm to share her experiences and memories. For further information call 623-974-5377

## Early Sun City radio is re-visited

When radio was popular, Sun City had its very own radio station—KWAQ. The station was on the air seven days a week from 6 a.m. to midnight. News was given every hour on the hour and community events every half hour.

A variety of programs were offered each day and included everything from music of all kinds, interviews with local residents, church programs on Sundays, baseball and other sports events to mention just a few.

The radio tower still stands, behind the Grand Avenue Shopping Center, but KWAQ "signed off" in 1982.

Nancy Brandt, former news director with KWAQ will be at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society on Tuesday, May 10, at 1 p.m. to share her experiences and memories.

For further information call 623-974-5377.

## Notebook

### Sun City radio returns for week

During the week of May 10-16, residents can tune in every hour on the hour to Sun City's own KWAQ radio, FM 106.3, for a calendar of community events.

The radio station has been off the air since 1982, but is coming back for the week-long program. In a presentation at 1 p.m. Tuesday former radio news director Nancy Brandt will "Recall the Days When," Sun City was on the air.

The event will be at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. For information, call 974-2568.

## Historic society recalls Sun City's KWAQ radio

**SUN CITY** — Sun City once had its own radio station, KWAQ. The station was on the air seven days a week from 6 a.m. to midnight. A variety of programs was offered, including music, interviews with local residents, sporting events and church programs. The radio tower still stands behind the Grand Avenue Shopping Center, but KWAQ "signed off" in 1984.

Reminisce with Nancy Brandt, former news director with KWAQ, as she shares her memories at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive. For information, call (623) 974-5377.

© THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2005 B5

## SC Historical Society hosts speaker

Nancy Brandt, former news director with KWAQ, will share her experiences and memories, 1 p.m. May 10 at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive.

When radio was popular Sun City had its very own radio station KWAQ. The station was on the air seven days a week from 6 a.m.-midnight. News was given every hour and community events every half hour.

The radio tower stands behind the Grand Avenue Shopping Center but KWAQ signed off in 1982.

Call 974-5377.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT May 4, 2005

## Historical Society on Summer hours

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will change its open hours beginning Wednesday, June 1. Throughout June, July and August, the Society will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to Noon on Fridays and Saturdays. Private tours may be scheduled by calling the Society.

The Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City in the first model home built by Del Webb. The Society is dedicated to the collection, preservation and presentation of the history of the Sun Cities.

For more information, call the Society at 623-974-2568.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2005

**A3**

## Historical Society slates summer hours

Summer hours are in effect for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. Now through August, the society will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to noon on Fridays and Saturdays.

Private tours may be scheduled by calling the society, which is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive. For information, call 974-2568.

## SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

June 8, 2005

2

## Community News

### Historical Society changes summer hours

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City, is changing its hours during the summer months of June, July and August from 10 a.m. to noon Fridays and Saturdays.

The society is dedicated to the collection, preservation and presentation of the history of the Sun Cities.

Private tours may be scheduled. Call 974-2568.

## Webb's Inspiration

### Sun City Wasn't the First Retirement Community in the Area

It has been said that Sun City was the first retirement community to require residents to meet certain age requirements before they could purchase homes. Not so, according to all records! Youngtown's developer, Elmer Johns, in 1954 was the very first to restrict buyers in his development to those who were at least sixty years of age. But read on. The Webb executives were well aware of this fact, especially after Dave Garroway (remember him?) had a short segment on his *Today* show about Elmer Johns and his project. Afterward, Johns received over 50,000 inquiries about his project.

Bolstered by this response, and adding the creative, imaginative thinking of Del Webb himself, a plan evolved, factoring in changes found in medical studies on aging, and changes brought about through unions which had influenced fringe benefits for retirement. The Webb executives created a plan that was an amazing gamble.

Before one house was to be built, construction of a golf course, a recreation center and a shopping center was to be completed. This plan forever changed the idea of retirement as sitting on the porch in a rocking chair. A bold venture, indeed! What this entailed was the need to include in the cost of the homes the construction of the golf

course and recreation center, plus a mechanism whereby the home owner paid to maintain these facilities indefinitely. Voila!! This was put into place, and Sun City became the first retirement community to include both age restrictions and the cost of facilities for an active lifestyle in the title to a home.

- Come visit the Sun Cities Historical Society at 10801 Oakmont Dr. Summer hours are Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to noon (other hours by appointment) and see pictorially how this concept became reality, and how history was made. Speakers are also available for groups desiring a program. Call 623-974-2568 for more information.

*SunViews July 2005*

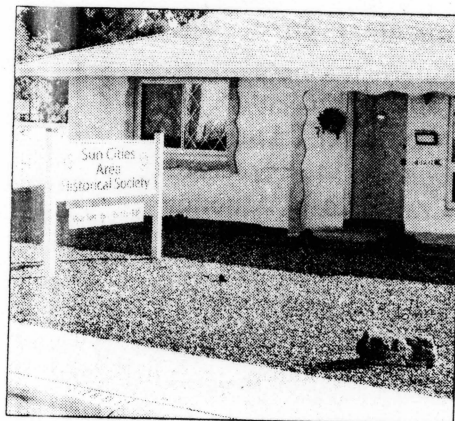
## How Sun City Got Its Name

In December of 1959, satisfied with the progress in all areas of construction, the Del Webb Company was well on its way to opening a sales office and commence taking orders for homes. However, they faced a new problem: this new utopia-to-be had no name. The Rueben Donnelly Advertising Company of Chicago was quickly contacted to conduct a contest throughout the country. Soon, the entries were being received in Chicago and forwarded to the Webb executives. A dozen or so names were being considered and discussed by the Del Webb board and the Donnelly representatives when Del Webb walked in. He was brought up to date and as he examined some of the names, he casually remarked, "I like Sun City."

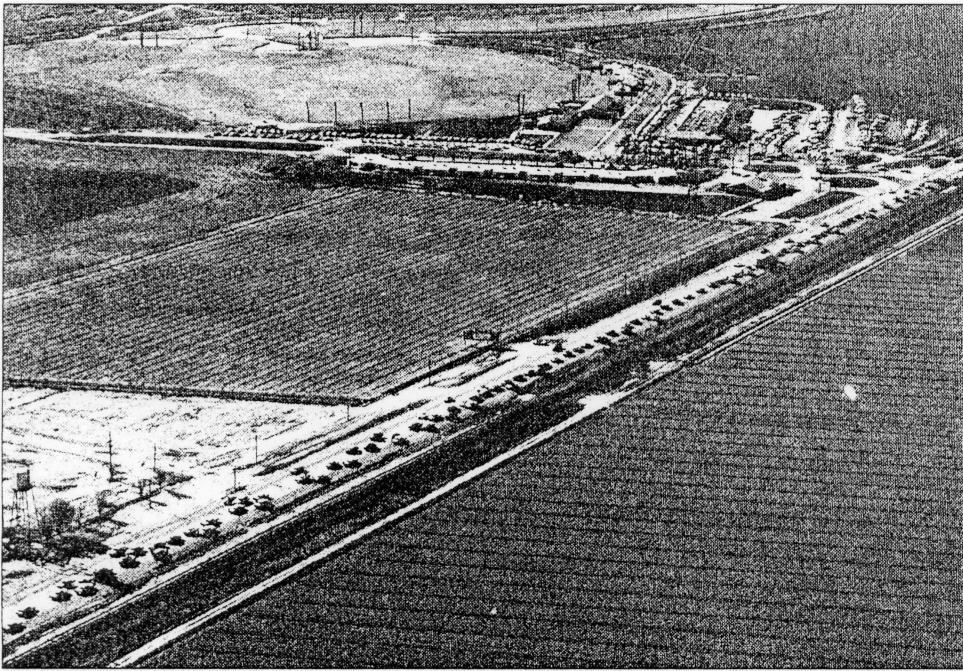
Imagine the silence! One of the Webb executives said, "Well that's it then." The Donnelly staff objected, saying they were hired to select a name and thought the Webb team should play by their rules. "You don't seem to understand," they were told. "When Del Webb says that is the name, then that is the name." Revealing, wasn't it?

Space does not allow for the rest of the story, but the Donnelly reps returned to Chicago, winners were selected, and how and what they had to do to complete the contest is an interesting story. However, Sun City became the official name.

Visit the Historical Society, get the "rest of the story" and savor memories of our early days. the Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive. The summer hours are Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon and other hours by appointment. Speakers are also available for groups desiring a program. Call 974-2568 for more information.



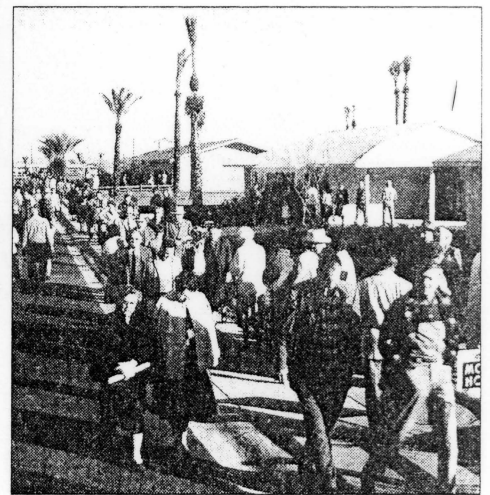
# Historical Society Recalls First Days of Sun City



Left: This aerial view was taken January 1, 1960, the day Sun City officially opened and thousands of people poured in via Highway 60 to view model homes and discover what Del Webb and his company had built in this history-making retirement community.

(Courtesy of *Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona*, printed in 1984.)

Right: This picture was taken at the center of all the hustle and bustle at the grand opening of Sun City, Arizona. Over 100,000 people flooded the streets of this newly designed community to see for themselves what Del Webb and Company had envisioned in this desert paradise. (Courtesy, *Jubilee*, 1984)



Picture, if you will, the excitement that prevailed amidst the Del Webb executives in December 1959, as bonuses were being passed out following a preview of the five model homes, the completed recreation center, the shopping center, and the golf course, beautiful and green. That is to say, the world's first active retirement community was ready for action.

There was more anxiety than excitement for the group who was diligently putting on the final touches in all these areas, very late into the night on New Years Eve!

Can you feel the excitement on

New Years Day? Wouldn't you, too, wonder, "Will anyone come?" Imagine then, being with this responsible working group at the end of the day; sitting on the floor in the petite salesroom office, looking at each other unable to believe how many homes they had sold.

Nor were they able to comprehend the fact that more than 100,000 inquisitive people had jammed the area, eager to see the new homes, and the other facilities that made this place unique. Do you suppose they were glad that they were busy selling houses and not out on Grand Avenue or the other

highways where traffic was backed up for two miles by these eager sight seeing groups? And that was just a taste of what was to follow for the rest of the weekend. There's more to this story with plenty of marvelous pictures of that grand opening.

Visit the Historical Society, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive. The summer hours are Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon, and other hours by appointment. Speakers are available for groups desiring a program.

**Call 974-2568 for more information.**

## Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Today as we make haste to be sure we are not late for our volunteer jobs, or for a computer class and – heaven forbid – late for a bridge session, do we ever stop to think or wonder about those who were “our pioneers,” who settled in and developed our exciting life style? After all’s said and done, it took the pioneering group to come and stay to make Del Webb’s concept of an active community a reality.

Most of the pioneers, in retrospect, agreed they stayed because the niceties were not only mentioned in the brochures, but were already in place and ready to use before they so much as picked out a floor plan. But can you picture yourself buying the eleventh house for example? There was no choice of a golf course – but one was very ready and available; no choice of a Recreation Center but one was there (empty) and waiting for someone to start activities in its many rooms?

On the other hand, imagine showing up to play golf on the one and only course, and finding Bob Hope and other star players

in person, playing a round! And as the first year moved along, picture rows of comfortable chairs moved into the Bandstand area for a performance by Lawrence Welk and his entertainers, on a beautiful moonlit night!

The Sun Cities Historical Society has photographs of these pioneering days that are fascinating and fabulous. Please come and visit us at 10801 Oakmont Dr., and remember this month the hours will return to Tuesday through Friday, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. with other hours by appointment. Speakers are also available for groups desiring a program. Call 974-2568 for more information.



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## Historical Society changes summer hours

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City, is changing its hours during the summer months of June, July and August from 10 a.m. to noon Fridays and Saturdays.

The society is dedicated to the collection, preservation and presentation of the history of the Sun Cities.

Private tours may be scheduled.  
Call 974-2568.

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SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT     June 8, 2005

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## 'Winter' hours at Historical Society

September is the start of extended hours at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. For the next nine months the Society will be open Tuesday-Friday from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The Society is located in the first house built in Sun City and is now a museum where visitors can learn about the roots of Del Webb's concept of retirement living. It has also become a research center for scholars studying the lifestyle of seniors.

The Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, next to the Oakmont Recreation Center. For information about special tours and speakers call 623-974-2568.

## Historical Society extends hours

For the next nine months, the Sun City Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, will be open from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

The society is in the first house built in Sun City, which is now a museum where visitors may learn about the roots of Del Webb's concept for retirement living. It also has become a research center for scholars studying the lifestyle of seniors.

For information about special tours and speakers, call 974-2568.

# Community Events

## Sun Cities Historical Society Reminiscent of Past

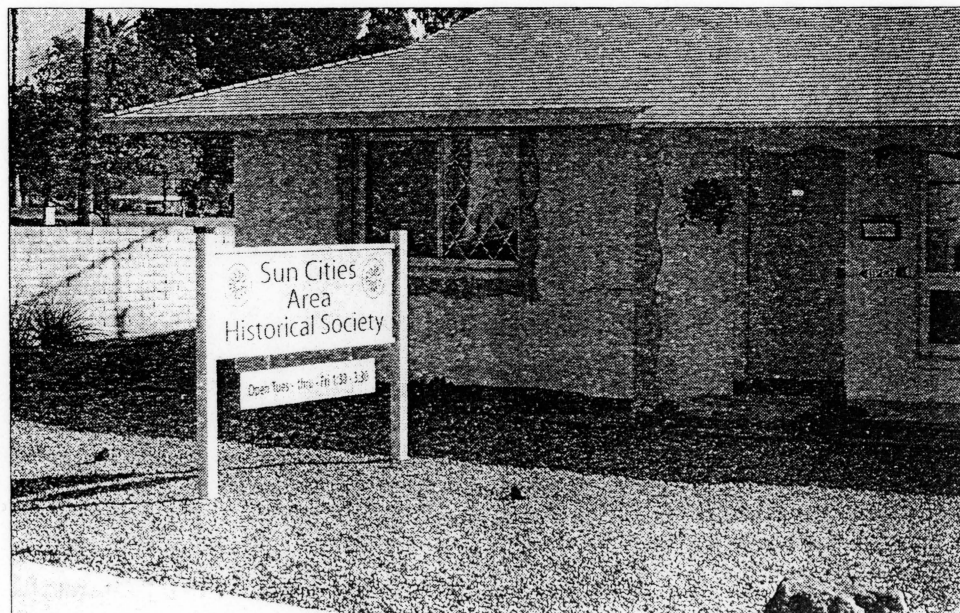
Once again Del Webb Company demonstrated their originality and creativeness when Sun City became an officially recognized community in the U.S. Postal Guide on April 4, 1960. On that date, a contract substation was opened in a yet-to-be used space in the newborn Grand Avenue Shopping Center. The rent was \$1.00 a year. Always a showman, Del Webb arranged that the event be commemorated by the issuance of a multicolored special cacheted cover, under the sponsorship of the Arizona Society of Topical Philatelists (and the Del Webb Corp.) The inauguration was most unusual in that the Post Office came into being before anyone lived in the area.

The new postal station's opening was a philatic holiday for souvenir hunters. Several hundred collectors were on hand to witness the ceremonies as Phoenix postmaster Arthur Summerfield delivered the key to the post office to Thomas G. Austin, Webb's activity coordinator and acting postmaster on this special day. An estimated 3,000 first day covers were serviced, with a

special cachet mailed to President Eisenhower. The first day covers included a greeting card telling briefly the story of a model community which had grown "from meadow land to metropolis in just 92 days." This event was hosted at the Community Center (now Oakmont Center) where postmasters from neighboring communities and other guests were honored at a luncheon. This is only

the "tip of the iceberg" on the story of the Post Office, so please come and visit the Sun Cities Historical Society at 10801 Oakmont Dr. any Tuesday through Friday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. (other hours by appointment) and see pictorially, the rest of the story. Volunteers are available for tours, and speakers are also available for groups desiring a program.

For more information, call 974-2668.



## Sun City Historical Society

As you read your DAILY NEWS-SUN each day, and read, casually perhaps, about the Rec Centers and their need for repair—or problems related to the leadership of the centers, does your mind ever drift back to our “founding days”? Back to the days when there were few occupants of the newly built homes and only one “Town Hall” (now the Oakmont Recreation Center.)?

It didn't take our early birds long to show a desire to do something other than play golf or sit in the sun and count their blessings. T.C. Austin, activities coordinator for the Del Webb Development Corp., was able to report that the interest shown far exceeded expectations. By April, 1960 (that was only four months after Opening Day!), eight clubs had been organized. These first eight clubs were Lapidary, Ceramic, Woodworking, Jewelry and Copper, Lawn Bowling and Crochet, and Shuffleboard and Croquet Clubs. (What – no bridge??) All this activity in only four months! The startled Mr. Austin stated, “We realize that an overall and complete program will take time, therefore DEVCO will assume all maintenance costs until June 1, 1960.” By the beginning of June, those pioneers had arranged that membership fee was \$1.00 per person per month and this allowed the members to use the community

center swimming pool, arts and craft rooms, card rooms, shuffleboard and lawn bowling courts. The membership fee did not cover the cost of supplies that was left up to each club to define. You will notice Golf course privileges were not included in these membership dues.

Each of the 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 to be called the Activity Club. In turn, this group would look after the facilities and coordinate with the activities of the various clubs.

In June 1960, a general meeting was held, followed by an election of officers for the Activity Club. This was the beginning of organized recreational activity tied in with home ownership and was truly the fulfillment of Del Webb's dream of what a Retirement Community should be.

This was a venture into uncharted territory and many changes have been made. Come visit the Historical Society at 10801 Oakmont Drive. The hours are from 1:30 – 3:30 pm from Tuesday through Friday and volunteers are always available. Speakers are also available for groups desiring a program. For more information, call 974-2568.



**Dr. Reba Wells Grandrud**  
Noted Historian

**"IN THEIR OWN WORDS"**

Hear what the women who traveled the Oregon Trail via covered wagon in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century had to say. Stories taken from the diaries kept by these courageous women will be recounted via a slide presentation:

**Wednesday, November 2, 2005**

**1:00 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**12225 N. 103<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
(next to Sun Valley Lodge)**

**Sun City**

**Refreshments      No Charge**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY @ 623-974-2568  
10801 OAKMONT DR.    SUN CITY, AZ 85375**



Submitted photo

## Historical society

The annual fall meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society will be held 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2 at the First Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103 Ave., Sun City. Reba Wells Grandrud will speak on what it was like to be a woman on the Oregon Trail, the California Trail, or the southern route to California that came through Arizona. Refreshments will be served. Free to public. Call 974-2568 or 974-5377.

## At a Glance

### Noted historian to speak at meeting

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society's annual fall meeting will be 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2 at the First Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave. Refreshments will be served.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Reba Wells Grandrud, who will present a slide show titled "In Their Own Words."

The presentation utilizes the overland diaries of women who went west in the 19th century.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT October 26, 2005

# Historian shares stories of pioneering women

STAFF REPORT

Famed historian Reba Wells Grandrud will share the compelling stories of women who traveled west in the 19th century during the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's annual meeting.



Grandrud

The meeting will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City.

Grandrud will cover topics including what it was like to be a woman on the Oregon Trail, the California Trail or the southern route to California that passed through Arizona. She will present a slide show, "In Their Own Words," which features the overland diaries of what pioneering

## IF YOU GO

■ **WHAT:** Noted historian to speak at Sun Cities Area Historical Society's annual meeting.

■ **WHEN:** 1 p.m. Wednesday.

■ **WHERE:** First Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City.

■ **INFO:** 974-2568.

women endured during their trek through uncharted territory.

Since retiring in 1998 as national register coordinator of the Arizona State Preservation Office, she served as director of the Arizona Historical Society Museum in Papago Park in 2000. Grandrud has continued her dedication to the preservation of history — local, state and national.

The meeting is free, and refreshments will be served. For information, call 974-2568.

### Noted historian to speak at meeting

The annual fall meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical society will be 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2 at the First Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City.

Refreshments will be served. Guest speaker will be Dr. Reba Wells Grandrud, who will present a slide show "In Their Own Words." The presentation utilizes the overland diaries of women who went west in the 19th century.

### Sun Cities Area Historical Society — 1

p.m. The guest speaker will present a slide show, "In Their Own Words," which utilizes the overland diaries of women who went west in the 19th century, to hear in their own words what they endured and some of their experiences moving through uncharted territory. First Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City. Open to the public. (623) 974-2568.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT October 19, 2005

DAILY NEWS-SUN

A3

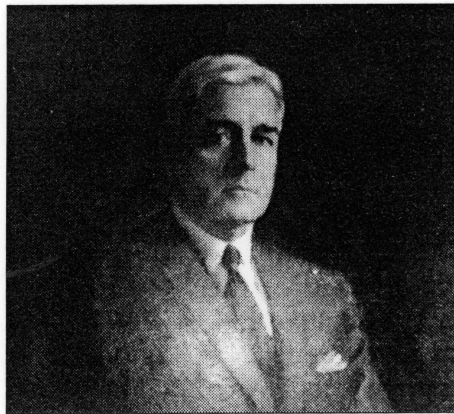
THURSDAY, OCT. 27, 2005

## Sun City Historical Society

The first time you drove in or out of Sun City, what were your thoughts as you viewed the imposing, breath taking, pristine, beauty of the building carrying the words BOSWELL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL? As we celebrate the 35th anniversary of this magnificent hospital, so, also, may we step back and remember the life and contributions of the man for whom the building was named: Walter O. Boswell.

Walter was born in Penfield, PA., December 19, 1878 - the eldest of ten children. He attended the University of Georgia and graduated from the Military Academy at West Point. He was married in 1909 to Ann Decker Orr, and subsequently served his country with distinction in a number of capacities. He was in line to become Chief of Staff to General John Pershing when, in 1931, he was persuaded by his brothers to take an early retirement. It was at this time that he assumed the duties of Vice President and General Manager of Arizona operations for the J.G. Boswell Company.

Again, he served with distinction as he and two of his brothers expanded all of the company's holdings in Maricopa, Pinal, and Pima Counties. At his instigation and recommendation property was purchased and developed, bringing the company's total land holdings to 20,000 acres. On this land, Mr. Boswell developed some of the first cotton land from this virgin desert.



Wells had to be drilled; land surveyed, leveled and fertilized. Irrigation ditches had to be dug, cotton gins built, shipping facilities established - all on arid desert land!

After all the needed negotiating process was completed, it was on part of this land that Del Webb began developing Arizona's Sun Cities in the early 1960's, and ground was made available for the WALTER O. BOSWELL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL. Walter really retired in 1936 and had time to enjoy his family before his death in 1953.

Today the Sun Cities Historical Society celebrates this distinguished military officer, honored business executive, and beloved family man. The beautiful, well equipped medical facility is indeed a worthy tribute to Walter's life and his many contributions.

Come see us at 10801 Oakmont Dr. Volunteers are always available to show you around. Our hours are Tuesday through Friday, from 1:30 - 3:30pm, with other hours by appointment. For more information, call 974-2568.



December 3, 2005

"IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD PROGRAM

A first Saturday of every minth program sponsored by the  
SCW Recreation Centers

SCAHS drawing for the Del Webb book winner

Left to right: Ed Stromming, winner; Edson Allen, SCAHS  
President; Barbara DuPont, Rec Center, rep.