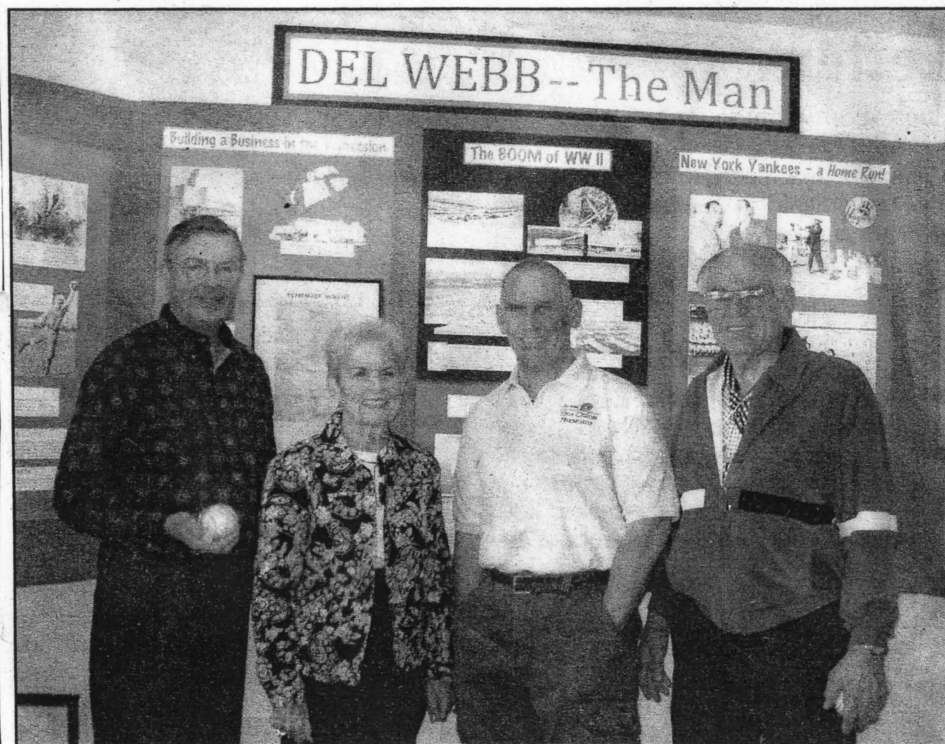


SUN CITY WEST INDEPENDENT

December 23, 2009

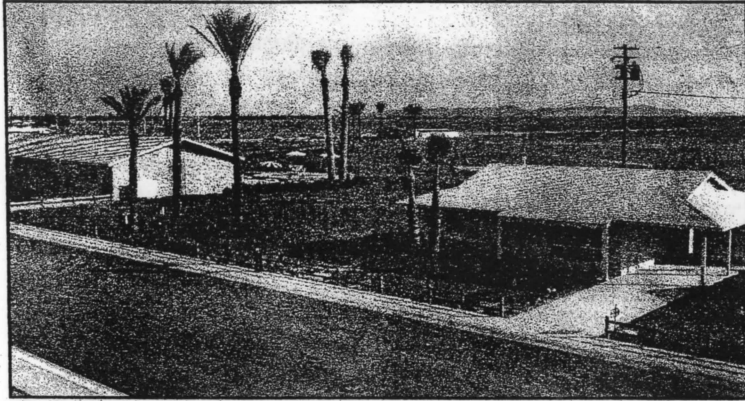


Submitted photo

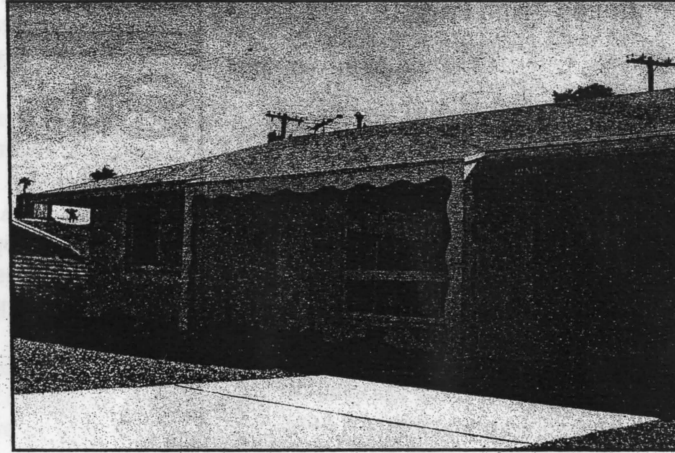
Exhibit celebrates life of Del Webb

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum's newest exhibit celebrates the life of Del Webb, the founder of the Sun Cities. "Del Webb: The Man. The Company" features a variety of items once belonging to Mr. Webb and loaned to the museum by Mrs. Robert Johnson. The museum is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, in one of the first five model homes built in Sun City, and is open 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. On hand for the exhibit opening Dec. 9 were, from left, Ed Allen, past president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society; Mrs. Johnson, Bill Pearson, SCAHS president-elect; David Verble, current SCAHS president.

Historical society museum gets makeover, new name



The house as it appeared when the community first opened in 1960. The house, one of the first five model homes built in Sun City, is on the right in the above photo. What is today Oakmont Recreation Center is on the left. (photo courtesy of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society)



The house, as it appears today, is also the official headquarters of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

By Bret McKeand
Independent Newspapers

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is preparing for the community's 50th anniversary by sprucing up its headquarters with a fresh look, expanded exhibits and a brand new name.

The most noticeable change comes in the name of the organization's museum, located in one of the first homes ever built in Sun City. SCAHS officials announced this week that the building's name has been

changed to the "Del Webb Sun Cities Museum," in honor of the founder of Sun City.

The announcement was made at the organization's annual meeting held Monday at Oakmont Recreation Center. SCAHS officials say the name change and other steps recently taken by the organization will allow the SCAHS to play a more visible role in the community's 50th anniversary celebration.

"For some time now we have considered the use of the magnetic name of Del Webb in conjunction with 'museum' for a more meaningful identity to the house," said Da-

vid Verble, president of the SCAHS.

With the help of Pulte Corporation, a new sign has been created and will soon greet visitors to the museum. The museum is located at 10801 Oakmont Ave. The house was one of five model homes available to buyers to view the day Sun City first opened, Jan. 1, 1960.

The SCAHS purchased the house in 1989. The building serves as SCAHS headquarters and home to literally thousands of photos

See **Society** — Page 20

Society

Continued From Page 19

and artifacts related to the history of Sun City and Sun City West.

The house has slowly been restored to its original condition and today it also serves as a museum, offering visitors a glimpse at life in Sun City in the early 1960s. The house was repainted over the summer and restored to its original color.

In addition to changing the name of the museum, the SCAHS has a number of other projects planned to boost the organization's visibility in 2010:

- A new exhibit highlighting the life of Del E. Webb will soon open. The exhibit will trace Mr. Webb's career as a builder, baseball team owner and Las Vegas resort operator. A number of personal items once belonging to Mr. Webb will be on display for the first time.

- The SCAHS will use "traveling displays" to highlight the community's history. Displays will be featured at libraries and other public buildings throughout the Sun Cities.

- A series of open-house events are planned for 2010, with the first scheduled for Jan. 1, 2010, exactly 50 years to the day when Sun City first opened to the public.



An artist's rendering of the new sign that will soon greet visitors to the Sun Cities Del Webb Museum, 10801 Oakmont Ave., Sun City.

- A 1960's-era three-wheel golf car has been donated to the SCAHS and fully restored to its original condition. The golf car will be on display at the museum during special events.

- The SCAHS will publish a commemorative 50th anniversary magazine later this year. The publication, "Reshaping Retirement in America," will detail the history of Sun City using the organization's vast collection of photographs. The magazine will sell for \$5, but given away free to all SCAHS members.

- The SCAHS has uncovered long-lost advertisements created and used by the Del E. Webb Corp. to promote the community in its infancy. The advertisements are on display at the museum.

"Though still under the umbrella of the

SCAHS, a new name, a comprehensive exhibit of Del Webb accomplishments, expanded Sun City West displays and a new look at the role Marinette played will be coming soon," says Mr. Verble.

Bill Pearson, SCAHS vice president, calls the museum a "jewel in the desert" that is still relatively unknown within the community. Playing a larger role in the celebration of the community's 50th anniversary will not only boost visibility of the historical society, but also create a better understanding of Sun City's rich heritage.

"With the opening ceremonies for Sun City's 50th anniversary just weeks away, there is a need to shine a spotlight on this magnificent jewel in the desert and all the remarkable artifacts inside," says Mr. Pearson.

"What better way to do it than by starting with a name change to recognize the genius behind its creation, Del Webb."

The museum is open 1-4 Monday through Friday. Call 974-2568.

Editor's note: It is the newspaper's policy to declare any potential conflicts of interest. The author of this story, Bret McKeand, is vice president of Independent Newspapers and presently a member of the SCAHS Board of Trustees.

Historical society unveils new name

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

In an effort to increase visibility and membership, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society has renamed its building, the first model home in Sun City, to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

A temporary sign is in place at the house, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, and Historical Society Vice President Bill Pearson said the Pulte-built block sign is on its way. As for the reason for the change, Pearson said it came from a meeting of the board earlier this year.

"We were kicking around the idea of a name change because we thought a new name would give us a little extra pop," Pearson said. "We all agreed, we do not have enough exposure in the communities, and we need to fix that."

Pearson, David Verble, president; and Bret McKean and Edson Allen, trustees, shared some of the changes coming to the museum at the group's annual meeting Mon-

day at Oakmont Recreation Center in Sun City.

Pearson said the historical society only has slightly more than 100 members.

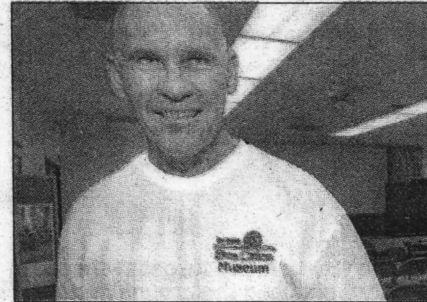
"With over 40,000 households in Sun City and Sun City West, we can do a lot better," he said. "There is enormous potential for growth."

Pearson said the change is happening in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Sun City for two reasons: to take advantage of the opportunity to bring attention to the historical society, and to remind people what Sun City is all about.

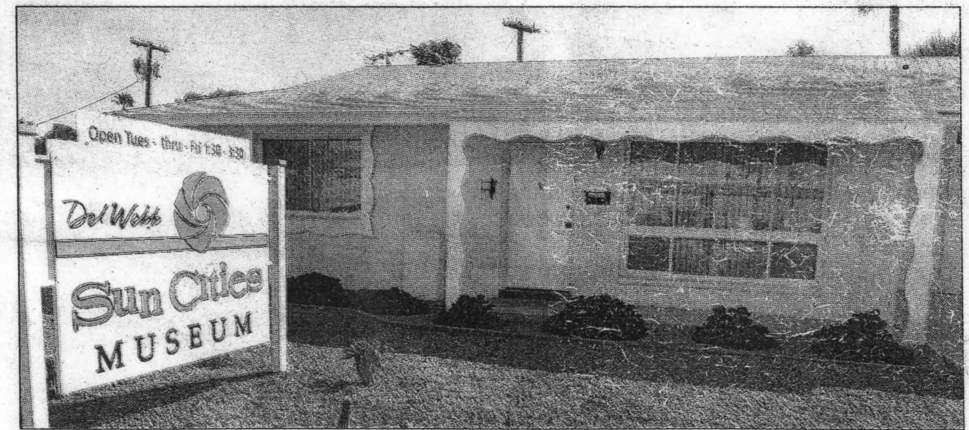
"We can never, ever lose sight of our history, because our future is tied into how we came to be," Pearson said. "As we move forward, it is important that we remember what made Sun City the best retirement community in the world in the first place."

Pearson said he believes the his-

SEE MUSEUM, A5



Bill Pearson, vice president, sports a T-shirt with the logo of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, formerly the Sun Cities Historical Society, Monday during the group's annual meeting at Oakmont Recreation Center in Sun City. Below, the museum at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, was painted this summer with labor donated by Albrecht and Son LLC.



PHOTOS BY MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

MUSEUM

FROM A1

torical society has a chance to bring in a lot of new members next year.

"We can re-create and re-invent ourselves, and we can re-energize the community," Pearson said. "All we have to do is get the people out to the

museum, because once they do they will fall in love."

Pearson said the museum will be open for longer hours and will open after many 50th Anniversary events for anyone interested in heading over.

"A lot of people don't know where the house is even located," Pearson said. "It's been the best kept secret in Sun City, but that's going to change. Our goal for this year

is to be open and available a lot more often."

In other business, Norm Dickson of Sun City and Noel Willis of Sun City West were elected to the board of trustees.

They will be installed next week.

Jeff Dempsey may be reached at 623-876-2531 or jdempsey@yourwestvalley.com.

ITY INDEPENDENT October 28, 2009

Historical Society slates annual meeting

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will unveil new plans for its Sun City museum during the organization's annual meeting 1 p.m. Nov. 2 at Oakmont Recreation Center, 10725 W. Oakmont Ave.

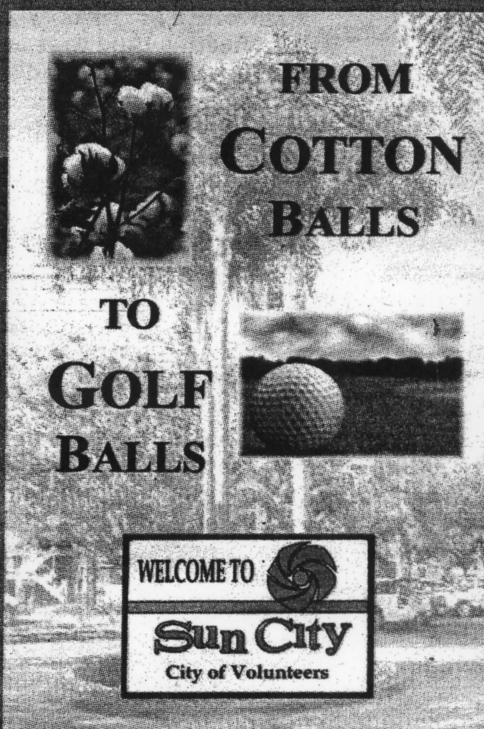
The meeting includes the annual election of new board members, a review of proposed bylaws changes and committee reports and updates.

The board will also discuss upcoming changes to the museum, new exhibits and displays scheduled for 2010 and activities

planned to mark the 50th anniversary of Sun City. The society and its museum are located at 10801 W. Oakmont Ave., in the first model home ever built in Sun City. The meeting is open to the public.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE "GALA OPENING NIGHT"

NOVEMBER 4, 2009



50th Anniversary of Sun City

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SUN CITY
17200 N. DEL WEBB BLVD., SUN CITY, AZ

4:30PM - SANCTUARY

"SUN CITY ALL-STAR BAND"

SHERMAN HANDYSIDE, DIRECTOR

5:30PM - FELLOWSHIP HALL

CATERED DINNER

GROUND BEEF TACO SALAD WITH BEANS
(MADE WITH ROMAINE AND DARK LETTUCE)

CASSEROLE-STYLE CHICKEN ENCHILADA

RICE OLÉ, CHIPS AND SALSA

CHOCOLATE TACO

TICKET COST FOR THE MEAL: \$7.00

(TICKETS FOR MEAL MUST BE PURCHASED BY NOON OF
NOVEMBER 2ND PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (623) 974-2512)

6:30PM - SANCTUARY

"SUN CITY"

WHAT WAS HERE BEFORE -

WHAT IT HAS BECOME"

CONNIE MCMILLIN

SUN CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

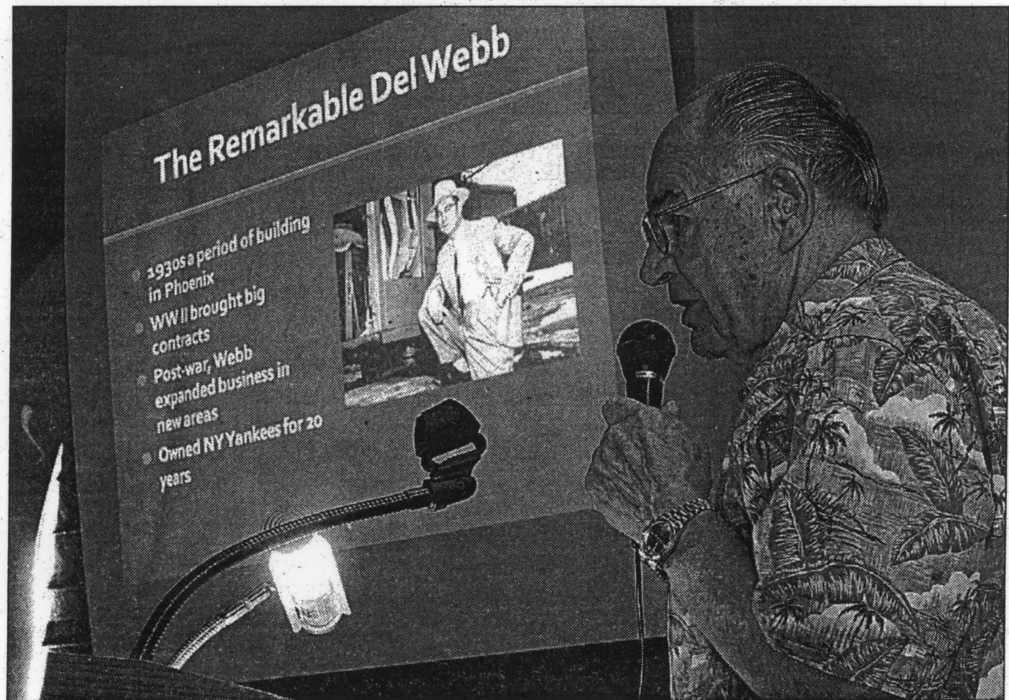
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DAILY NEWS-SUN

Saturday, October 31, 2009

TORCH CLASS IS IN SESSION

President of the Sun Cities Historical society David Verble speaks about the history and geography of Sun City West during the first TORCH session at Palm Ridge Recreation Center in Sun City West Thursday. TORCH stands for Tapping Our Resources, Citizens and Heritage. The deadline to apply for the spring class is Jan. 8. Applications may be downloaded from www.rcscw.com or obtained by calling Governing Board Manager Sharon Schomer at 623-544-6115.



ASHLEY LOWERY/DAILY NEWS-SUN



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY LOWERY/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Trisha Walter, left, Jane Freeman, Bob Bailey and Michelle Pahl, above photo, prepare to cut the ribbon for The Heritage Club at The Heritage Palmeras in Sun City Monday. Below, Heritage Palmeras residents Lorraine LeBeau, right, and Marge Harmon talk over a cup of coffee at The Heritage Club.

Heritage Palmeras welcomes new hang-out

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

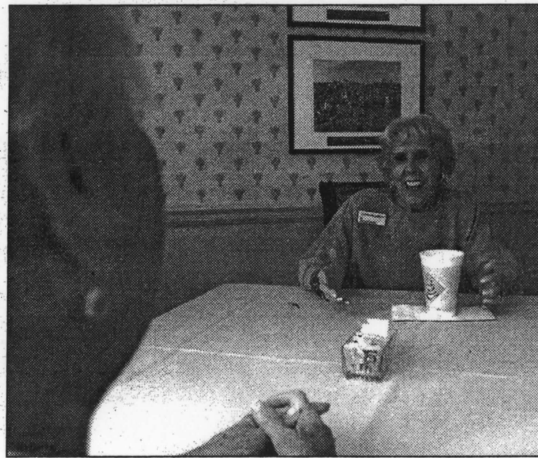
Just inside the main entrance and off to the left, The Heritage Palmeras used to have a gift shop.

But it was not especially popular with the residents, so management got together and came up with a solution. At 3 p.m. today, they will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Heritage Club, a new gathering and meeting place for residents of Heritage Palmeras and the public.

"The truth is, as a gift shop the space just wasn't very well utilized," said Program Director Trisha Walter. "We wanted a place where residents could gather and socialize, and now we have that."

The name has a dual meaning, she said. It is called the Heritage Club, both as a nod to the diverse heritage of the residents and as homage to the heritage of Sun City, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2010. Hanging on the walls of the club are several photographs of Sun City as it looked when it first opened. Walter said the photos were donated by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, which will send a representative to the ribbon cutting.

"The historians will be here to talk about Sun City, which should be really interesting," Walter said. "The response from the residents has been really great



so far, and we expect they will be very happy with what we've done."

Walter said the change from gift shop to meeting area began a few months ago. Now that it is finished, she said she expects residents to be in and out all day.

"We have coffee and pastries and things here all day long, so we think it will be a pretty popular spot for those who want to relax and, say, read the newspaper," she said. "In addition, every couple of weeks we'll host a happy hour here, with champagne or other drinks."

The Heritage Palmeras is at 10101 W. Palmeras Drive in Sun City. For information, call 623-977-2777.

Jeff Dempsey may be reached at 623-876-2531 or jdempsey@yourwestvalley.com.

Painters donate labor to spruce up historical society

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Tom Albrecht received a call from the Sun Cities Area Historical Society asking for a bid on a painting job.

Albrecht runs Albrecht & Son Painting and Drywall, and operators of the historical society, located in the first model home in Sun City, wanted the building repainted to its original color.

"We came out and took a look at the place, and I came back and told them we would do it for free," Albrecht said. "I just felt like it was the right thing to do."

On Thursday morning, a crew from Albrecht & Son was at the historical society, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, repainting the building in time for Sun City's 50th anniversary.

Albrecht said the significance of the planned celebration was a factor in his decision.

"I know they are expecting a lot of people for the 50th anniversary, and they want to look their best," Albrecht said. "I thought it would be a good thing to do for the community."

Paul Herrmann, 50th Anniversary Committee mem-

ber and executive director of the Sun City Visitors Center, said the paint job is part of a plan to make the historical society a Sun City focal point.

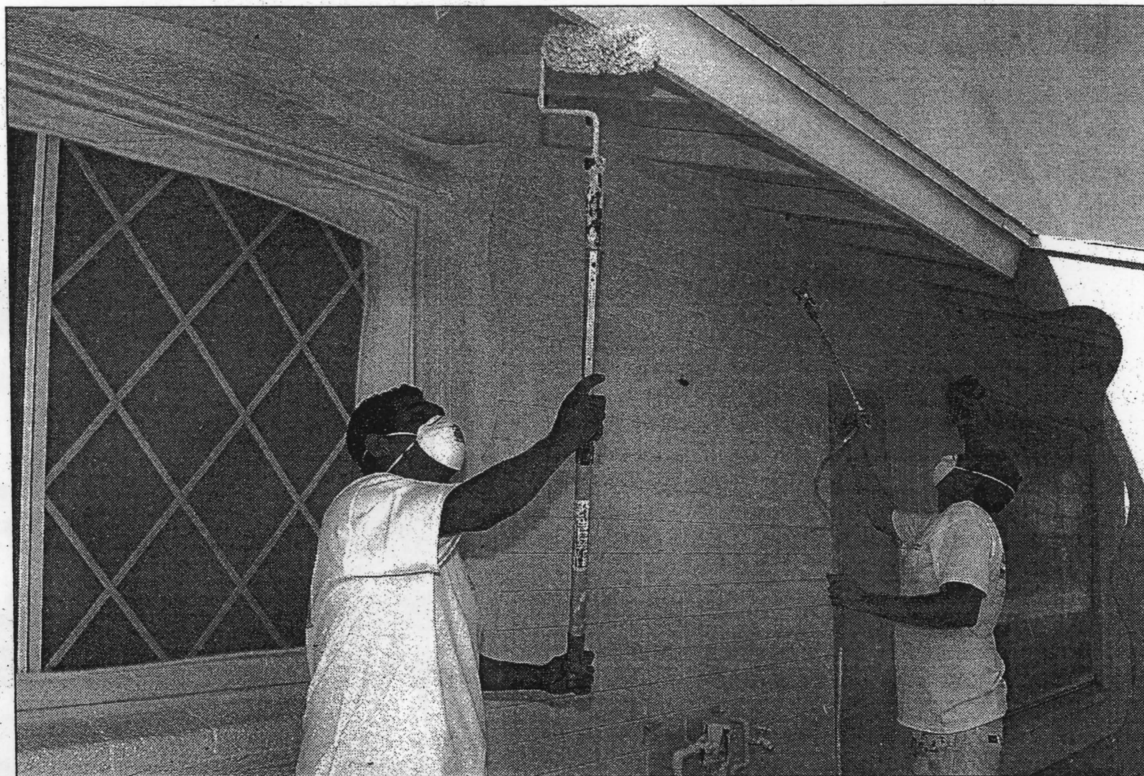
"This is their opportunity, and they are going to take advantage of it," Herrmann said. "It's very exciting because they are trying to use the 50th anniversary to put themselves on the map."

Herrmann said he is impressed with the leadership at the historical society.

"They're going to be announcing some changes, and I think they're really going to be a nice asset to the community, especially during the 50th anniversary year," Herrmann said. "Their membership is not where it should be, and it's sad. We have about 40,000 or so homes in the Sun Cities, and their membership is in the low hundreds. That needs to change, and I know they are working very hard to do that. I think this is going to be a very big year for them."

Whatever changes the society makes, it all begins with a fresh coat of paint.

"We've been in business here for 20 years now," Albrecht said. "We feel we're a



PHOTOS BY MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

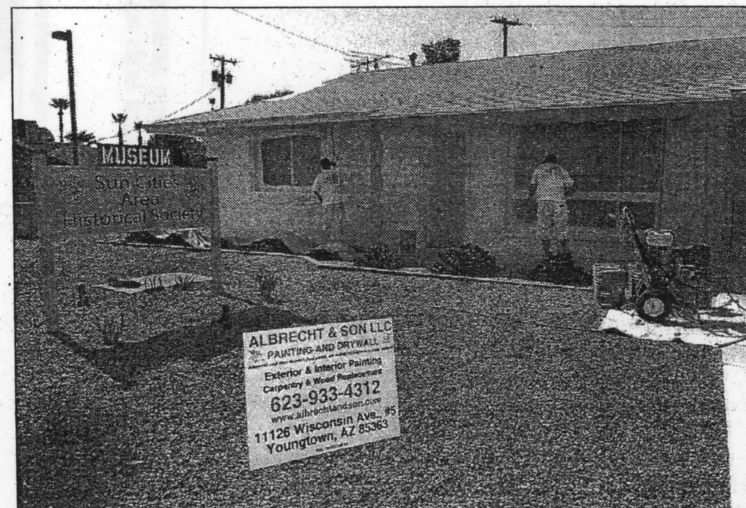
Jerry Fernandez, left, and Trevor Miller paint the outside of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Thursday morning. The painters are restoring the home to the original paint color scheme, light Navajo white with chalk-colored trim. Albrecht & Son Painting and Drywall donated the labor and paint to restore the Sun Cities Area Historical Society to its original colors for Sun City's 50th anniversary celebration.

part of the community. So, of course, we want to give back to them."

To learn about the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, call 623-974-2568 or visit www.scazhistory.org.

For information on the 50th Anniversary Committee, contact Herrmann at the Sun City Visitors Center, 623-977-5000, or visit www.suncity50thanniversary.org.

Jeff Dempsey may be reached at 623-876-2531 or jdempsey@yourwestvalley.com.





Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

History paint job

Trevor Miller of Albrecht Painting checks his equipment before completing the spray portion of repainting the Sun Cities Area Historical Society office and museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive. Albrecht donated the labor and the historical society paid for the paint.

Preserving history



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jane Freeman, right, founder of Sun Cities Area Historical Society, and docent Belva McIntosh, left, turn over the society's collection of oral history audiotapes and transcripts to Melanie Sturgeon, director of the history and archives division, Arizona State Library. A part of the history of the Sun Cities has been captured on tape through interviews of early residents and community leaders. To better preserve the recordings, the original tapes were deposited in the new Polly Rosenbaum State Archives in Phoenix. Many of the interviews were conducted by Sturgeon while she was an ASU graduate student working on her master's degree and researching retirement communities.

All SCAHS volunteers are invited

Brisket Bash

**Texas-style smoked brisket
with assorted side dishes**

When: 3:00 pm, Saturday, April 18

Where: The Pearson Place
10201 W. Desert Rock Dr, Sun City

Bring your appetite and your partner

RSVP – sign the list at the House

SE BRISKET BASH FOR SCHS VOLUNTEERS APRIL 18, 2009

Sports

Contact Rich Bolas, sports editor, at 623-876-2523
or rbolas@yourwestvalley.com

APRIL 2, 2009

www.yourwestvalley.com

Daily News-Sun

GOLF

TIME TRAVELER

Golf memorabilia provide history lesson



Bob Lucas shows off one of his golf clubs Wednesday during his presentation at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society meeting in Sun City West.

MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

RICH BOLAS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Bob Lucas opened an egg carton and exposed a roomful of people to golf history.

Lucas, a Sun City Grand resident, displayed golf memorabilia and discussed the game's origins on Wednesday during the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's spring meeting in Sun City West.

With the course at Hillcrest Golf Club as a backdrop, Lucas provided a glimpse into golf history and his love of memorabilia associated with the game.

"I bought my first wood-shafted putter at a flea market in the 1970s," Lucas said of his personal golf collection. "Before long, I had over 9,000 clubs and was renting three storage sheds to keep them.

"I had to learn how to sell them or eat them."

The egg carton contained golf balls from every era, including wooden balls used during World War II and leather balls filled with goosefeathers.

"Believe it or not, the leather balls could be hit anywhere from 150 to 200 yards," Lucas said. "It was similar to a baseball, with the stitching on the inside."

Clubs evolved along with the golf balls, going from wood to various

types of metal.

"Balls were destroyed if they were hit too hard in the early days of golf, so metal clubs were used only to get players out of trouble on the course," Lucas said. "As the balls got harder at the turn of the century, irons became more popular."

Early irons had smooth surfaces. Grooves, which gave golfers more control of their shots, were placed on irons around 1905.

"In 1921, Jack Hutchinson won the British Open with deep-grooved irons," Lucas said as he passed around such a club for visitors to inspect. "After he won the tournament, the ruling body of golf outlawed deep-grooved irons."

Lucas has traveled around the world as a collector, frequently attending big events such as British Open.

"My wife and I used to own a store in Geneva, Ill.," Lucas said. "She would sell women's clothes and I would sell golf memorabilia.

"I think it was the only store of its kind."

One of his most-prized possessions is a wood club with a gutta-percha head. Gutta-percha comes from the sap of a Malaysian tree and once was used to make golf balls. The malleable substance is

still used to today as dental filling.

"I discovered there are only five in existence," Lucas recalled. "I bought it on eBay for \$500 and sold it for \$4,000."

Frank Housel of Sun City West brought one of his golf putters to the session for inspection.

From 20 feet away at the podium, Lucas identified the manufacturer and provided a brief history of the club for Housel.

"For me, this club is more of a novelty than anything," said Housel, who learned from Lucas that the putter had been made in the 1960s. "I've looked up information and it's worth anything from \$15 to \$100."

Through the years, Lucas' collection has expanded beyond golf balls and equipment.

The Sun City Grand resident has acquired golf postcards, prints, photos, tees and even sheet music with golf-related songs.

Lucas said he no longer fills storage sheds with golf memorabilia.

For the Sun City Grand resident, the hunt appeals more than the acquisition.

"You hang things on a wall for a while and then you move on to something else, Lucas said. "Everything is for sale, except my wife and my dog. And my dog died."



SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Presents

**"The History of Golf
and the Clubs and Balls
with which it has been played."**

April 1 -- 1:00 pm

**Hillcrest Golf Club
"Pavilion on the Green"
Beardsley & Star Ridge Drive
Sun City West**



Collector Bob Lucas will share his knowledge of this ancient sport and show samples of antique clubs, balls and other golf memorabilia.

Everyone Is Invited! No Admission Charge! Free Refreshments!



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Free golf history program set

Adding to our Celebration of Golf events in April will be a talk on the history of golf, along with a display of antique clubs, balls and other golf memorabilia.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has arranged for collector Bob Lucas to trace the evolution of golf and the tools with which it has been played. Bob has collected old clubs all his life, and at one time, his collec-

tion consisted of more than 9,000 antique clubs. He and his wife travel regularly to Scotland and other golfing venues, buying, selling and trading antique golf memorabilia.

The program begins 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, in Hillcrest Golf Course's Pavilion. It is free, open to the public and includes coffee and refreshments. This is sure to be an interesting and fun event!

Everyone is invited!

No Admission Charge!

Free Refreshments!

Collector Bob Lucas will share his knowledge of this ancient sport and show samples of antique clubs, balls and other golf memorabilia.

Sun City West

Beardsley & Star

"Pavilion on the

Hillcrest Golf

April 1 -- 1

with which it has
and the Clubs

"The History

SUN CITIES

Everyone is invited!

samples of antique clubs, balls and other golf memorabilia.

Collector Bob Lucas will share his knowledge of this ancient sport and show

Sun City West

Beardsley & Star Ridge Drive

"Pavilion on the Green"

Hillcrest Golf Club

April 1 -- 1:00 pm

with which it has been played,
and the Clubs and Balls

"The History of Golf

Presents

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Sun Cities Area Historical Society

RUMMAGE SALE

10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City

Thursday, March 5 – 9:00 – 3:00

Friday, March 6 – 9:00 – Noon

Hundreds of items donated by friends and members of the
Historical Society!

To Donate Items – Bring them to the Society between 1:30 and 3:30, Monday or Tuesday, March 2nd or 3rd – or call 974-2568 to arrange for them to be picked up. **No clothing, please!**



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Freeman provides walking history

As Sun Citians approach volunteerism for the 2010 Sun City 50th Anniversary celebration, volunteers take their cue from the serious time and effort that past volunteers have given towards the success of previous anniversary celebrations. Volunteers of the 50th and prior efforts will be saluted in this monthly column.

By Marilyn Holley and Darrell Bradshaw

The Hats Off salute this month honors a very special volunteer who has devoted countless hours to become the walking, talking encyclopedia of Sun City - Jane J. Freeman.

Through her efforts, along with co-author Glenn Sanberg, the history of the first 25 years of Sun City came to life for the community's 25th Anniversary celebration. The book, entitled "Jubilee - A History of Sun City," takes the reader from the desert that was to become Sun City and moves forward with recordings of who did what, when it happened and how it happened. She devoted a year and a half of her life to the research, typing and finalizing of this historical book so that future Sun Citians would know, understand and appreciate the beginnings of their community. Ms. Freeman seemed destined for a life of giving to others as she sought a college degree in education. At the University of Virginia she completed her doctorate degree in education, Ed.D., and moved to New York State where she met her future husband, Leslie. She held the position of Dean of Students at Rockland Community College in Suffern, N.Y. They were married on Dec. 20, 1958. She has two step children, Toni and Les, Jr. Both children are now retired. Toni lives in New York state and Les, Jr. in Montana.

When Mr. Freeman retired in 1970 the Freeman's moved from New York state to "get away from the cold and ice." They purchased a golf course home on Prairie Hills Circle and settled in to an active retirement lifestyle. She fondly remembers the security they felt in their new Sun City home. They left doors and windows open and were never concerned about locking them at night.

After the death of her husband in 1977, Ms. Freeman became

even more involved in the community. She has repeatedly been recognized for her dedication to the community and her giving spirit. She was recognized for over 25 years of service to Meals on Wheels. She received Interfaith's Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award in 2003. In 2005, she received Emeritus status from Sun Health for 15 years of service. In 2007, she was recognized by the Valley of the Sun United Way for her community involvement.

In addition to awards, Ms. Freeman has also served, in various positions, for many Sun City organizations. She is the former First Vice President of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. She served many years on the Sun City Library Board of Directors and is past President. She is the past President of both the Sun City Community Fund/United Way and of the Sun Health Foundation Board of Trustees. And she is the former Board Chairman of the Sun Health Extended Care Services.

Ms. Freeman holds Emeritus status with the Sun Cities Historical Society. The Society began in part when Ms. Freeman and other concerned residents learned that the Del Webb Corporation office was contemplating discarding unwanted files and documents once the build out of Sun City was completed. These pieces of history were rescued and gave birth to the Historical Society for the preservation they deserved.

The above lists just a few of Ms. Freeman's volunteer achievements. She has served in over 25 significant positions during her Sun City residency. Her numerous efforts were rewarded in 1981 when she was awarded Woman of the Year by the Daily News-Sun.

When asked about how the writing of the history of Sun City came about, Ms. Freeman laughs and says "people got tired of me continuously asking questions about the community and told me I should write a book" -- so she did just that. She started by becoming the Sun City ombuds-

man with the Northwest Valley Paper Council (sponsored by the Independent and Daily News-Sun newspapers) where local issues and events were discussed. From these beginnings she and co-author Glenn Sanberg collaborated to give the Sun City community an official history book. For those interested, this book is available at the Sun City Historical Society, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Ms. Freeman also used her research and writing skills to co-author a 25 year history of Boswell Hospital. In response to a question regarding why she volunteered to be so involved in the community Ms. Freeman jokingly responded "because she was asked to and it sure beat doing housework", but follows that closely with the statement that it is because of the wonderful people she has met through volunteerism. She is the definition of a "people person".

Though small in stature, Jane J. Freeman has an enormous giving heart and the community of Sun City has truly benefited from her tireless efforts and generous commitment to volunteerism.



Submitted photo
Jane Freeman

Monday, February 9, 2009

www.yourwestvalley.com

DAILY NEWS-SUN

From A1/Death Notices

A5

Kim Woehler of Glendale, left and Lou Sniderman talk about the 1960 Autolette.

The electric car moved people around when the first Sun City homes opened. The two were visiting outside the Sun Cities Historical Society during the car show Saturday.

Below, John Edwards of Sun City listens to the sounds coming from the speakers on Gunther Franke's "Music Machine."



PHOTOS BY MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN



Historical society travels down memory lane

Golf car show attracts antique, custom models

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Golf cars come in all different shapes, colors and sizes.

Just ask Elaine Robinson, who never thought she'd drive a pink golf car. The Sun Citian bought the 1988 Yamaha from a neighbor.

"I'm having such a blast driving this thing around because it's the only golf car of its color that I've seen around here," Robinson said.

Robinson showed off her car Saturday morning at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's first Golf Car Show in the west parking lot of the Oakmont Recreation Center at 107th and Grand avenues. The event also included two golf exhibits with one showing photos from the early days of Sun City area courses and another featuring antique golf clubs and memorabilia from the collection of Bob Lucas, who lives in Sun City Grand.

More than a dozen golf cars were featured at the event from antiques to the custom-made models, and visitors had the opportunity to vote on their favorites.

Sun Citian Kay Pittenger won the People's Choice Award for her 1929 Model A Ford car, while Herb

Carson received the Oldest Operating Golf Car Award for his 1972 Westinghouse which had seven horns on it.

Kim Woehler of Glendale showcased his "leisure cart," which was considered one of the first golf cars in Sun City. He purchased the electric car — a 1960 Autolette — from a former Sun Citian, who had the vehicle that originally came with the home.

Woehler said he wouldn't "technically call the vehicle a golf car but a leisure cart."

"They used it as a smaller compact car to get around on when they didn't want to use their cars, then it evolved into something else," he said.

He's still surprised that it has remained in mint condition over the years.

"It was really taken care of because the original paint and wheels are still in top condition," he said.

Gunther Franke, a Sun City West resident, featured his red 2006 CA Roadster, also known as the "Music Machine." He bought the custom-made vehicle from an owner in the Midwest.

The vehicle features a DVD player with a large sound system and a hydraulic lift "that makes it seem like a low-rider."

"It's a really fun vehicle to drive," he said. "This is just like driving a miniature sports car around."

Classics meet customs



MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Elaine Robinson, right, and Ruth Prior share some fun over Robinson's 1988 pink golf cart. Robinson said she gets plenty of looks as she drives around town in the unusually colored ride. The Sun Cities Historical Society sponsored the golf car show Saturday. Story on A5.

Quarterback delivers Gator-aid to national champions, A10  Photo radar trigger adjusted, B16



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BREAKING NEWS, VIDEOS AND TRAFFIC >> www.yourwestvalley.com

Classic appeal



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is calling on golf car owners to take part in its first Golf Car Show Feb. 7. At left is a 1950 Studebaker owned by Denny Lockmon of Sun City. The Hummer H-3 car, above, belongs to George Wildridge of Sun City West. His son won it in a hole-in-one contest. For details on the show and a chance to win a gift card, see the story on A3.



SC Historical Society hosts golf car display

Are you driving Sun City's oldest golf car or a custom golf car? If so, you could win a prize at the first Golf Car Display in the Sun Cities. On Saturday, February 7, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, in cooperation with Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc., will host a showing of old and custom cars in the west parking lot of Oakmont Recreation Center from 9 a.m. to noon. The Sun Cities Historical Society will be open and will feature an exhibit on the history of the golf courses in the Sun Cities. Coffee and munchies will be provided. Prizes will be given for the oldest operating golf car and for the most popular custom car. To enter your golf car, call the Sun Cities Historical Society at 623-974-2568, or Ed Allen at 623-975-1815.

SunViews January 2009

Historical Society keys into 1st Golf Car Show

STAFF REPORT

Even golfers in the Sun Cities who don't come close to shooting par will have an opportunity next month to wow spectators by driving their golf cars to an event sponsored by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

The society is searching for the oldest, operating golf car to exhibit at the area's first Golf Car Show on Feb. 7.

The free event, conducted in cooperation with the Recreation Centers of Sun City, will display old and custom cars from 9 a.m. to noon in the west parking lot of the Oakmont Recreation Center, 107th and Grand avenues.

Last year, the Historical Society had an antique car show in the shopping center parking lot across the street from its office, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive. Former president Ed Allen said they ran into trouble when organizing this year's show.

"The woman who owns that shopping center did not want us to use the parking lot again," Allen said. "We wanted to do it again, but without that lot, we just would not have enough room."

Allen said the idea of using the Oakmont parking lot came up, but even that would be too small for cars. Normal-sized cars, that is.

"We realized we could fit probably 20 golf cars in there with plenty of room for people to walk around, and the idea kind of took off from there," Allen said. "In addition to the show, we're going to have a golf car display at the Historical Society, too. It's going to be pretty comprehensive."

Besides ogling the cars, the show will provide some of the history of the ubiquitous mode of Sun City transportation.

For example, did you know three-wheeled golf cars were common on Sun City's streets and golf courses in the 1960s, but there was a tendency for them to tip when going around corners. That led to the popularity of today's four-wheel models.

Another interesting bit of information from Steve Pohle of Pohle Neighborhood Vehicles in Sun City and Sun City West is the important role that Sun City played in introducing the concept of "neighborhood vehicles," with golf cars being used

for more than golf.

The Historical Society will be open and will feature two golf exhibits: one showing photos from the early days of Sun City area golf courses, and a second featuring antique golf clubs and memorabilia from the collection of Bob Lucas. At one time, Lucas owned more than 9,000 antique golf clubs, along with balls, tees and other memorabilia from the 19th century. Moving to Sun City Grand, he pared his collection to only a few hundred clubs and some of these will be on display on Feb. 7.

Golf car owners who don't drive older models of cars won't be left out of the show. This is also a chance for owners to display some of the more unusual looking golf cars.

Coffee and light refreshments will be provided, and awards will be given for the oldest operating golf car, and for the most popular custom car.

Arrangements are being made to transport Sun City West golf cars to the show site by trailer. To enter your golf car, call the Historical Society at 623-974-2568, or Ed Allen at 623-975-1815.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sun City's first golf pro, Fielding Abbott, standing, talks to two unidentified golfers in this photo from the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's archives showing a three-wheeled golf car, which was popular in the 1960s. If you can identify the two men in the golf car, call Linda Hasenauer at 623-876-2524 and you may have a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate to Rock Bottom Brewery in Glendale. Be sure to leave your name and phone number.

Sun Cities Area Historical Society Spring 2010

Historical books, DVDs available at Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

A soon to be out-of-print book is among those for sale in the Museum. *Along the Old Vulture Road*, by Albert F. "Al" Tudor will no longer be published since his recent death.

It includes cattle tales and trails from Wickenburg to Phoenix along Grand Avenue, aka U.S. 60. Cost is \$10.

Two years ago the Historical Society, thanks to a grant from the Constance W. McMillin trust, was able to reprint *Del Webb: A Man/A Company*, by Margaret Finnerty.

It was written in 1991 and revised for the second time by Tara Blanc and Jessica McCann in 1999. A second

printing came in 2000, and Pulte Homes gave the Society permission to reprint in a dark blue soft cover in 2008. Cost is \$20.

The fledgling Sun Cities Area Historical Society entered the publishing world the year after it was formed in 1987 with *Churches of the Sun Cities*, by Emil C. Fisher, who carefully penned ink drawings to go with short stories about all the area churches built up to that time. Cost is \$1.

The first major history of Sun City was the bright red soft covered *Jubilee, the 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona*, written in 1984 by Jane

Freeman and Glenn Sanberg. The book is available for \$20.

In 2003 the Society sponsored Edson Allen's soft cover *Sun City West Silver Celebration*. The book covers the journey from Lizard Acres to lush oasis in its 289 pages. Cost is \$5.

And the most recent publishing effort is *Reshaping Retirement in America, Sun City, Arizona*. It was published this year with Society members Edson Allen, Jo Ruck and David Verble as consulting editors. It summarizes how the nation's first active adult community pioneered a lifestyle that created a model for generations of

retirees to come.

The salient events of history are capsulized in a journal format. (Cost \$5, or free with Museum membership).

The Society also sells the DVD, *The Beginnings*, a film shown in potential retiree communities touting the lifestyle of the Sun City pioneers enjoying life in the Arizona desert.

It is shown to visitors of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum in what may be the smallest theater in the U.S.A. – the former sales building/refreshment shack/Sun City Saints dressing room. Cost is \$10.

www.scazhistory.org

Scanned

Actress performs at May 16 Webb birthday party

By **Pris Fenner**

Special to the Independent

Happy 111th birthday, Mr. Webb. And just look who's coming to your party.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will celebrate Sun City founder Webb's birthday a day early Sunday, May 16 as part of Sun City's 50th Anniversary celebration. All events are free.

The public is invited to an historical and dramatic program featuring actress Tanya Griffith in the Oakmont Recreation Center 1-2:45 p.m. There will be birthday cake on the patio 12:30-3:45 p.m. and visits to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum next door, at 10801 W. Oakmont Ave., noon-4:30 p.m. All who attend the program will receive a Sun City anniversary coin "party favor."

Tanya Griffith, a Sun City resident for 23 years, will portray Del Webb's field secretary, Maxine Newman. Ms. Griffith has performed as more than 300 celebrated women nationwide before and during her arrival in Sun City. Currently, she limits her engagements to the Valley only. Her favorite personalities include Eleanor Roosevelt, Mary Todd Lincoln, Gertrude Stein and Grandma Moses.

"I am very pleased to be able to participate in Sun City's 50th Anniversary celebration," said Ms. Griffith, who will donate her



**Tanya
Griffith**

Party

Continued From Page 16

two short performances to the Historical Society, as she did ten years ago.

There will be programs at 1 and 2:45 p.m. for 150 people each. Also, Sun City Player member Jim Gatscher will present an illustrated program on "Del Webb, The Man, the Company." At the 1 p.m. program, SCAHS president Bill Pearson will introduce a few former Del Webb executives and employees, and descendants of the first family to occupy the model home, which now serves as a museum.

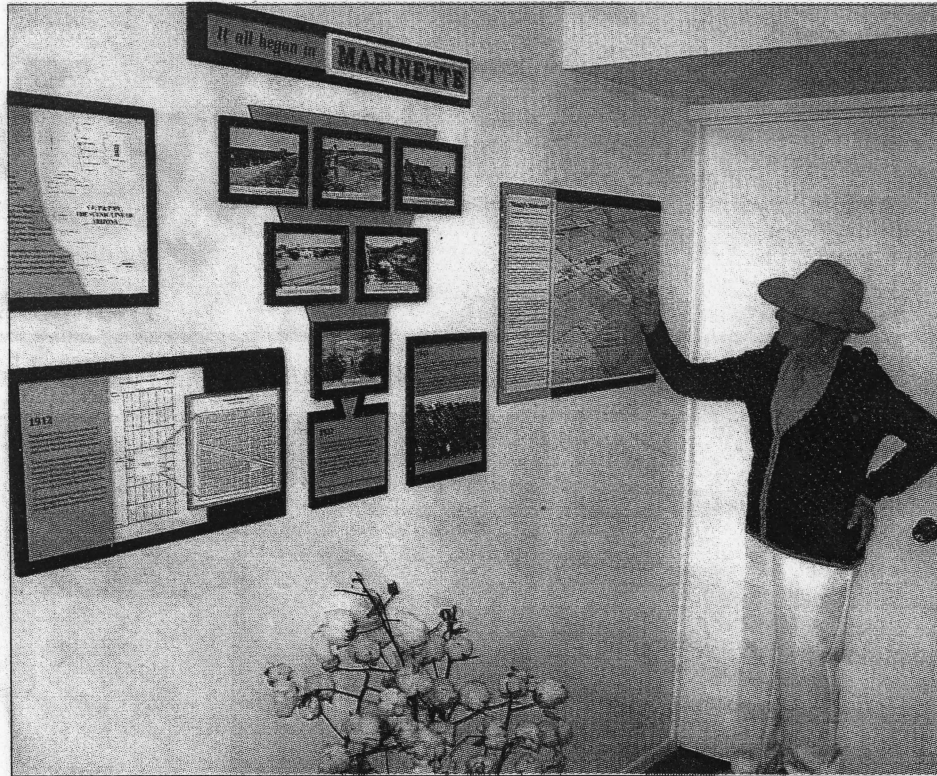
Historical Society founder Jane Freeman will cut the first piece of the giant birthday cake decorated in red and black, Del's favorite colors. It will be baked and decorated by the bakers at Safeway, Sun City's first grocer.

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum next door is one of Sun City's first five model homes and houses displays of Webb the man and the giant construction company he founded. A second gallery features the history of baseball and golf in Sun City. Also there is a colorful new display on Marinette (the small community where Sun City was built) complete with real cotton bolls.

Guests are urged to dress for both indoor and outdoor events and allow plenty of time for parking vehicles either at Oakmont Rec Center parking lots or on Oakmont Drive.

Builder Del E. Webb died of cancer at age 75 on July 4, 1974, just after he had completed Phase II and the "world's largest working sundial;" that was the year he opened Phase III and the year before Sun City's 15th Anniversary.

'IT ALL BEGAN IN MARINETTE'



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The story of the cotton-growing operations that preceded Sun City was provided by Amanda Monreal Durant, who grew up in Marinette and now lives in Sun City. Shown pointing to her house, Durant provided this schematic of Marinette as it appeared in 1958 — a year before Del Webb's company began construction on a different way of life. Durant's parents ran a store, and her mother served as the postmaster. The Boswells frequently stopped by to check on the operation, and one day Walter O. Boswell asked the 8-year-old her name. "Amanda," she replied, to which he said, "That's too big a name for such a small girl. From now on, we'll call you Mandy!" See "Mandy's Marinette" — and trace the history of the town back to 1895 — at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Del's Docents

are invited to a festive luncheon
hosted by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society
at 11 a.m. Tuesday April 20

5 & Diner Delux

behind Los Padres Bank
north of Bell on 114th Avenue

RSVP by April 16
at Del Webb Sun Cities Museum
623-974-2568

The Luncheon:

Choice of three half-sandwiches with a side
OR
Soup and salad

Dessert: Carrot cake

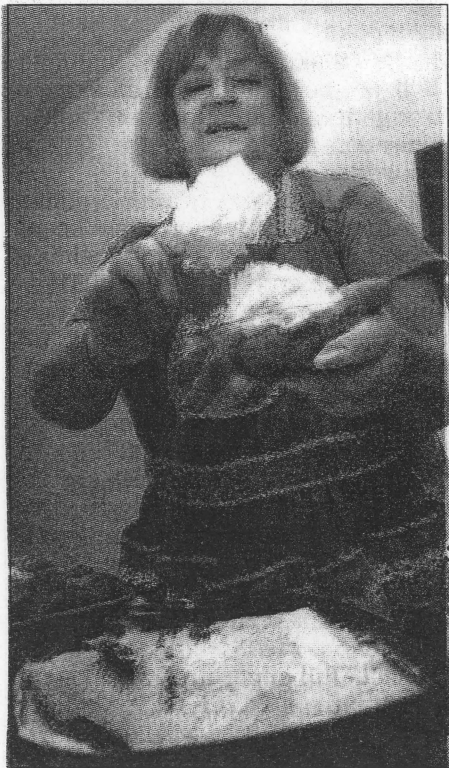
The fun:

Prizes, commendations, and rewards

The necessities:

Chance to update your volunteer handbook
(Bring your handbook and a pen)
Sign up for May 8, May 16 and July 4 events
Sign up for possible summer hours

Sun City serves up anniversary events



JOY SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Soroptimist Dorothy Kay of Sun City Grand serves strawberry shortcake Saturday at the Lakeview Recreation Center in Sun City for a festival celebrating Sun City's 50th Anniversary.

JOY SLAGOWSKI
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A strawberry festival and an open house at Del Webb Sun Cities Museum drew steady crowds Saturday for another in a series of events celebrating Sun City's 50th Anniversary.

The Valley of the Sun Soroptimists sponsored the strawberry festival in Lakeview Recreation Center social hall.

Proceeds benefit Soroptimist's Service Fund, which provides scholarships and grants to community organizations to improve the lives of women and girls both locally and around the world.

Jo Williams and Gretchen Long of Sun City came to help the charities, as much as for the dessert.

"We read about it in the paper and wanted to help the good cause," Long said.

Event organizer Priscilla Fenner, said the group wanted to revive the spring festival which was during Mother's Day weekends in the 1970s.

"Everyone likes shortcake just fine," Fenner said.

Strawberry festival participants were encouraged to visit the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, where



JOY SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Roger and Judy Burnett of Sun City listen to Bill Pearson talk about the history of Sun City during their visit Saturday to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. Pearson is president of the Sun Cities Historical Society.

new exhibits celebrate Del E. Webb, his company, baseball and golf and Marinette, the town site in the cotton fields on which Sun City was built.

Judy and Roger Burnett were two of the first visitors at the open house, after attending the strawberry festival.

Though they have lived in Sun City six years, this was their first visit to the museum. The Burnetts work, so they said they have not had the opportunity to explore all Sun City has to offer.

"We're learning more than we knew before today about Sun City," Judy said. "We didn't know Del Webb was involved with so many other things besides Sun City."

Bill Pearson, president of the Sun Cities Historical Society, said the

museum has seen a dramatic increase in visitors this year.

"We've had 1,450 people visit in the last four months," Pearson said. "And that is more than we have had in two and a half years."

"We wanted this to be the best year ever, and we have already achieved that," he said.

The museum occupies one of the first homes Webb built for the 1960 debut of Sun City. It is open from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.

On June 1, the museum will switch to summer hours: 9 a.m. to noon Thursdays and Saturdays, and 5 to 8 p.m. on Fridays.

Joy Slagowski may be reached at 623-876-2414 or jslagowski@yourwestvalley.com.

Docent shares Webb stories

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

When it comes to the history of the Del Webb Corp. and the Sun Cities, few people are as learned as Marjorie Johnson. After all, she lived it.

"I've been in the Del Webb business for most of my life," she said. "I was with Del Webb at the corporation from 1961 until about 1985 and then with the Webb Foundation after that. I've spent the best years of my life at Del Webb."

It is fitting, then, that Johnson serves as a docent at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum in Sun City. Twice a month on Mondays, Johnson gives tours in the first model home in Webb's first retirement community.

"I just started recently, but it's been very fun," she said. "I donated several items and pieces of memorabilia to be on display and was asked if I would like to give tours. So



ASHLEY LOWERY/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Marjorie Johnson, widow of R.H. Johnson, works as a docent at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum in Sun City.

here I am."

Johnson, 83, is the widow of R.H. Johnson, president of the Del Webb Corp. from

1967-81 and a famous man in his own right. It is no

SEE DOCENT, A5

DOCENT

FROM A1

surprise that, when tourists find out who Johnson is, they get stars in their eyes.

"I've had a few people ask to take pictures with me," she said. "They want to hear stories about Del Webb. I believe it is very unusual now to meet someone who actually knew Mr. Webb. Talking to me about him makes him actually exist somehow, like he's no longer a figment of their imaginations."

Johnson and her husband, who died in 2008 at the age of 92, were instrumental in the growth and involvement of the Del E. Webb Foundation, which has contributed primarily to health-care oriented organizations. DEWF has given more than \$65 million for medical research, medical facilities and education.

The foundation has contributed millions of dollars to the Sun Health Foundation for expansion of both Del Webb and Boswell medical centers.

The foundation provided the \$1.6 million needed to fund the Sun Health Del E. Webb Health Center of Wickenburg.

The Johnsons also were involved in the development and continuing support of the Del Webb Center for the Performing Arts in Wickenburg.

Johnson said she will be at the museum from 1 to 4 p.m. May 24. The museum is at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.

For information, call 623-974-2568, or visit www.scazhistory.org.

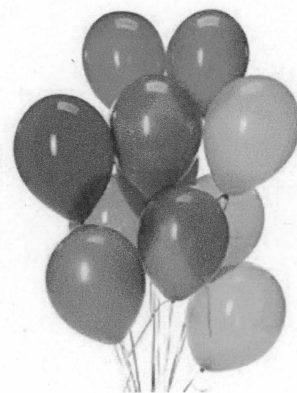
Jeff Dempsey may be reached at 623-876-2531 or jdempsey@yourwestvalley.com.



50th Anniversary event

It's a Party!

You're invited to celebrate the birthday
Of the founder of *Our Town*, Sun City, AZ



Del Webb's 111th Birthday Party
Sunday, May 16, 2010
Noon to 3 p.m.
Oakmont Recreation Center
107th Avenue & Oakmont, just south of Grand

FREE EVENTS

Commemorative party favors

Birthday cake on patio from 12:30 to 3:45

Programs at 1 and 2:15 (*limited to 150 people each*)
Player Jim Gatscher presents the Life and Times of Del Webb
Actress Tanya Griffith as Webb's secretary, Maxine Newman

Tour of Del Webb Sun Cities Museum (*next door*)
from 12 to 4:30 p.m. before or after the party activities

Dress for indoor and outdoor fun and allow time for parking
at Oakmont or on Oakmont Drive

No presents please! Your hosts - the Sun Cities Area Historical Society

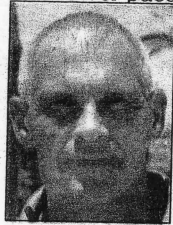
Sun Citians celebrate Webb's birthday

By Bill Pearson

Temperatures are starting to heat up and with those tepid temps come a slower pace and more indoor activities.

Throw into the mix the winter residents leaving by the motorhome load and it becomes apparent why the Sun City 50th anniversary festivities fall off during the summer months.

However, there are still events going on and perhaps none more promi-



Bill Pearson

nent than the birthday celebration for Sun City's founder, Del Webb. He died on July 4, 1974 at the age of 76. If he was still alive, he would be turning 111. Not an age unheard of in this fabled community.

The festivities will be conducted at the Oakmont Recreation Center, 10725 W. Oakmont Drive, on Sunday May 16. The doors open at noon with cake and refreshments being served on the patio from 12:30 to 3:45 p.m. Two presentations will be conducted inside the rec center, the first starting at 1 p.m. and the second at 2:45 p.m.

See Birthday — Page 28

Birthday

Continued From Page 17

Party favors, a cadre of Webb employees stopping by, Jim Gatscher presenting "The Life and Times of Del Webb" and Sun City's own renown actress Tanya Griffin portraying Webb's secretary Maxine Newman will be included in the day's activities.

To help make the festivities even more memorable, the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum (next door to the Oakmont Recreation Center) will be open from noon to 4:30 pm. During this 50-year celebration of the community's birth, the museum has been sporting record crowds and this special Sunday opening should add to those impressive totals.

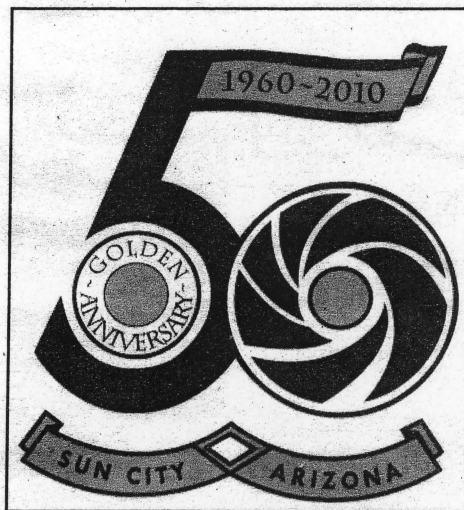
Later that evening, the Arizona Trio will be playing an outdoor show at the Sun Bowl starting at 7:30 p.m. For those who still have gas in that tired old tank, the Sun City Players will be performing "Laugh Out" on Monday, May 17 at the Mountain View Recreation Center auditorium, 9749 N. 107th Ave., beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets will be on sale at the door or in advance.

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum will shift to its summer hours June 1. Recognizing many of the year-round residents are working, the summer hours will be 9 a.m.-noon Thursdays and Saturdays and 5-8 p.m. Fridays. In addition, group tours can be run

for as few as four people and reservations can be made by calling 623-974-2568 and asking for Judy.

Raffle tickets for the Smart Car to be given away at the 50th anniversary closing ceremony in January are moving briskly and tickets can be purchased all summer at the Sun City Visitors Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave. They are on reduced hours during the summer, mornings Monday through Saturday. Shirts, hats, visors and other memorabilia is also on sale there.

Editor's Note: Mr. Pearson is Sun City 50th Anniversary Committee publicity chairman.



Join in celebration honoring Del Webb's 111th birthday

BILL PEARSON

CHAIRMAN

SUN CITY 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Who would have thought celebrating someone's 111th birthday as a time for a massive, boisterous party? Imagine him being a straight-laced, upstanding business man, a captain of industry, a builder second to none. A man revered as the founder of Sun City, owner of the New York Yankees during the greatest run in baseball (1945-1965), and the man who built both Bugsy Segal's Flamingo and Madison Square Garden.

But enough with the history lesson. You can get all of that information and lots more when you come to Del Webb's 111th birthday party Sunday at the Oakmont Recreation Center at 107th Avenue and Oakmont Drive (just west of Fry's on Grand Avenue).

Doors open at 12:30 p.m., with cake and coffee on the patio (served until 3:45) while inside we will nurture your more cerebral side.

The incomparable Tanya Griffith will play Del Webb's personal secretary Maxine Newman. There will be two shows with the first at 1 and the second at 2:45.

With Tanya will be a host of Webb employees to talk about their boss and family members who bought and lived in the first model home in Sun City.

Jim Gatscher from the Sun City Players will present "The Life and Times of Del Webb."

Dress is casual and you don't have to bring a gift for Mr. Webb (in fact, all those in attendance will receive party favors to commemorate this event).

Unfortunately, Del left us back in 1974, though his memory will live on forever in the hearts and minds of those of us who love Sun City and what he gave us. His legacy is a community that is visited and studied by people across the world.

Immediately next door to the Oakmont Rec Center is the first model



Delbert Eugene Webb

home and it has been restored to look like it did opening day 1960.

Now known as the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, it has enjoyed record numbers since the first of the year. Clearly the 50th anniversary has spurred this interest. To give even more of you a chance to visit, the museum will be open from noon to 4:30 p.m.

If by day's end you still have the energy, there is a free concert at the Sun Bowl featuring the Arizona Trio.

Showtime is 7:30 p.m. and don't forget to bring your lawn chairs.

If your motor is still running on Monday night, the Sun City Players will perform "Laugh Out" at the Mountain View Rec Center (tickets available at the door).

The more than year-long celebration will conclude Jan. 12 with a raffle drawing. The grand prize will be a Smart Car (which we will have at Oakmont for your viewing).

Raffle tickets are \$10 each, so if you have been wanting to get in the prize drawing early, bring your wallet, otherwise, everything else is free.

Hope to see you all there.

You're invited!

MUSEUM

Sun Cities

Del Webb®



Del Webb Sun Cities Museum (next door)
from 12:00 to 4:30 p.m. before or after the party

Acress Janya Griffin as Webb's secretary Maxine Newman
The Life and Times of Del Webb
Sun City Player Jim Garscher presents
Programs at 1:00 and 2:45 (limited to 150 people each)

Birthday cake on patio from 12:30 to 3:45
Commemorative party favors

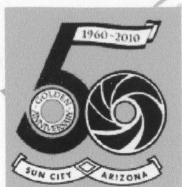
FREE EVENTS

108th Avenue & Oakmont, just south of Grand Avenue
Oakmont Recreation Center
Noon to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 16, 2010
Del Webb's 11th Birthday Party

You're invited to celebrate the birthday
of the founder of Sun City

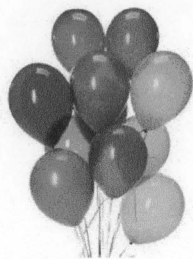
It's a Party!



50th Anniversary event

It's a Party!



You're invited to celebrate the birthday
of the founder of Sun City

Del Webb's 111th Birthday Party

Sunday, May 16, 2010

Noon to 4:30 p.m.

Oakmont Recreation Center

107th Avenue & Oakmont, just south of Grand Avenue

FREE EVENTS

Commemorative party favors

Birthday cake on patio from 12:30 to 3:45

Programs at 1:00 and 2:45 (*limited to 150 people each*)

Sun City Player Jim Gatscher presents

The Life and Times of Del Webb

Actress Tanya Griffith as Webb's secretary, Maxine Newman

Tour of **Del Webb Sun Cities Museum** (*next door*)
from 12:00 to 4:30 p.m. before or after the party

Dress for indoor and outdoor fun and allow time for parking
at Oakmont Rec Center or on Oakmont Drive

*No presents please! Your hosts - the Sun Cities Area Historical Society/
Del Webb Sun Cities Museum*

Del Webb's 111th Birthday Party
Sunday, May 16, 2010
10800 Oakmont Drive
Oakmont Recreation Center
10800 Oakmont Drive
Oakmont, Arizona 85168
10800 Oakmont Drive
Oakmont Recreation Center
10800 Oakmont Drive
Oakmont, Arizona 85168

10800 OAKMONT DRIVE

OAKMONT RECREATION CENTER

SUN CITY, ARIZONA 85168

10800 OAKMONT DRIVE

OAKMONT RECREATION CENTER

SUN CITY, ARIZONA 85168

10800 OAKMONT DRIVE

OAKMONT RECREATION CENTER

SUN CITY, ARIZONA 85168

You are cordially invited to
Del Webb's 111th Birthday Party
Sunday, May 16, 2010

As a member of the Del Webb alumni
you'll have parking near the building
and front row seating inside at
Oakmont Recreation Center
10800 Oakmont Drive

Commemorative party favors - cake
Program at 1pm (arrive by 12:30 pm)
Tour Del Webb Sun Cities Museum
Your host: Sun Cities Area Historical Society/
Del Webb Sun Cities Museum
Information: 623-974-2568

HISTORY JAUNT - NOVEMBER 4, 2010

*Join the Sun Cities Area Historical Society/Del Webb Sun Cities Museum for a
History Jaunt to
Camp Verde History Museum
Fort Verde*



Sedona Heritage Museum

Thurs. Nov. 4, 2010

(this is a fundraiser for the three museums and the Fort*)

Includes:

- Ruth Jordan Van Epps donating her time as guide
- Motor Coach (new with restroom)
- Visit to Camp Verde Museum, meeting with "old timers" and refreshments (Possibly time to browse/purchase items at New/Used Books Gifts & Fine Arts store close-by)
- Tour of Fort Verde where enactors portray life in late 1800's
- Lunch in Sedona Heritage Museum Apple Packing Shed, (lunch includes sandwich, fruit, chips, cookie, drink)
- Touring museum interior (home of Ruth's childhood)
- Touring outbuildings of Sedona Heritage Museum, the Apple Packing Shed and Tractor Garage with equipment; time to explore grounds of Jordan Park
- Donations to Camp Verde Museum, Fort Verde, Sedona Heritage Museum, Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.
- Gratuity for Driver
- Water on bus

Cost: \$75 per person for SCAHS members; \$85 per person for SCAHS non-members. (Costs based on minimum of 40 folks). Final payment & no refunds after 10/07/10). * \$40 of your cost is a tax deductible donation.

Depart Sun City Bell Center at 7 a.m.; Sun City West at 7:30 a.m.

Return approx. 5 and 5:30 p.m.

Make checks payable to: Pickard Travel Service, P.O. Box 5168, SCW, 85376

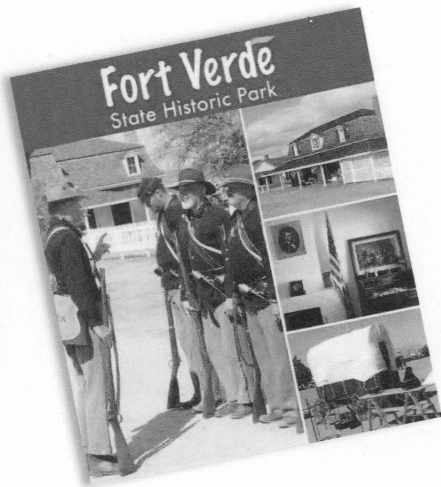
Phone Sheila, 623-546-2425; or Ruth, 623-584-1292 or 928-339-1158 (Summer)



invites you to

Take a jaunt into Arizona History

Thursday, November 4, 2010



Your guide is author and historian
Ruth Jordan Van Epps

The History Jaunt includes Ruth's comments, comfortable bus, admission fees, donations, snack, lunch, water, driver gratuity and pick up and return in Sun City and Sun City West.



Historical highlights:

Fort Verde Historic State Park with enactors

Camp Verde Historical Society Museum and snacks

Red Rock Historic Landmark Apple Packing Shed

Sandwich lunch will be served on the grounds

Sedona Heritage Museum – former Jordan homestead.

Pioneer history, gift shop, and time to browse inside and out.

COST

\$75 for Sun Cities Area Historical Society members - \$85 for others (\$40 is tax deductible)

Make checks payable to Pickard Travel Service and mail to PO Box 5168, Sun City West, 85376

Information: 623-974-2568

Registration deadline is October 7, 2010

Sun City's history clicks on website

JEFF DEMPSEY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has committed to sharing Sun City's past with residents and outsiders alike, but it always comes back to the same issue.

"We have all these amazing things to share, but getting people to come out to the museum — that's the problem," said Judy Baerg, office manager. "So that's why we cre-

SEE MUSEUM, A5

MUSEUM

FROM A1

ated the website."

She conceded it was "not very good."

When the society decided to put more of its focus and effort into the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, Baerg said they knew they needed a more effective online presence.

"Our goal is to share Sun City's history, and the museum is our most effective tool. But we weren't doing everything we could," she said.

"I think what we realized was that we were doing a very good job of cataloging all this information but not a very good job of sharing it. And like Bill (Pearson, resident) always says, "What is the use of having all these great pieces of history if nobody knows about them?"

As a result, what used to be a website with contact information and little

else has been transformed into an online archive, a database of much of the museum's pieces with more added every day. The new site went live about six weeks ago, and Baerg said it is already drawing many more visits.

"We have hundreds of ads, brochures, all kinds of things from the beginning of Sun City, all available to view on the site," she said. "We're not finished yet. We have about 600 items in there now, with probably thousands more still to be added, but it's a good start."

The site also includes a blog written by Pearson, called Sun Cities Today. The intention of the blog will be to focus more on present-day Sun City and what lessons from its history can apply today. Pearson wrote in an introductory post that he envisions the blog as a meeting place of sorts for people interested in Sun Cities history to have meaningful discussions.

On top of all that, Baerg said the

society is preparing a new display for the museum, one dedicated to Sun City West.

"We're planning to finish it sometime in November. We'll have a big gala opening to celebrate," she said.

The goal, she said, is simple: get people in the door.

"Our whole focus here is on getting people to the museum. Once they get here, it is so easy for them to get lost in all the history."

The museum is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. Summer hours through November are 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday and Saturday as well as 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday.

Beginning in October, the museum will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. weekdays.

For information, visit www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org.

Jeff Dempsey may be reached at 623-876-2531 or jdempsey@yourwestvalley.com.

SCAHS/Del Webb Museum hosts historical jaunt

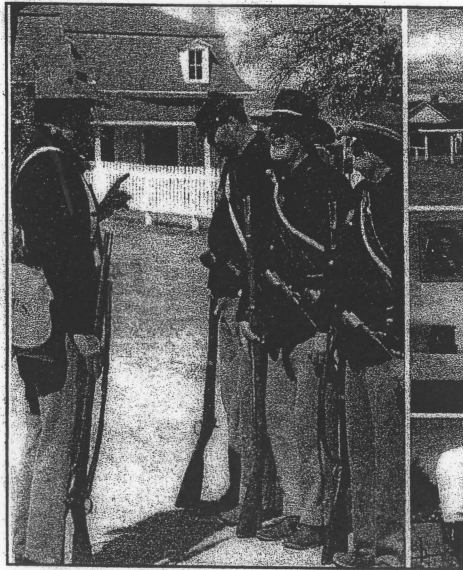
By **Pris Fenner**

Special to the Independent

It's all aboard a luxury bus Thursday, Nov. 4 for a jaunt north to visit an historic fort and museum in Camp Verde and a former apple packing barn and Heritage Museum in Sedona.

The day trip, sponsored by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society/Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, will raise funds for the three sites visited and the Sun City organization.

Sun City West resident and author, Ruth Jordan Van Epps, will guide the trip, which includes a visit to the apple ranch once operated by her family in Sedona. A sandwich lunch will be served in the Red Rock Historic Landmark apple packing shed. The adjacent brick home is the former Jordan family farmstead and is now the Sedona Heritage Museum featuring Sedona pioneers.



See Museum — Page 18

Museum

Continued From Page 16

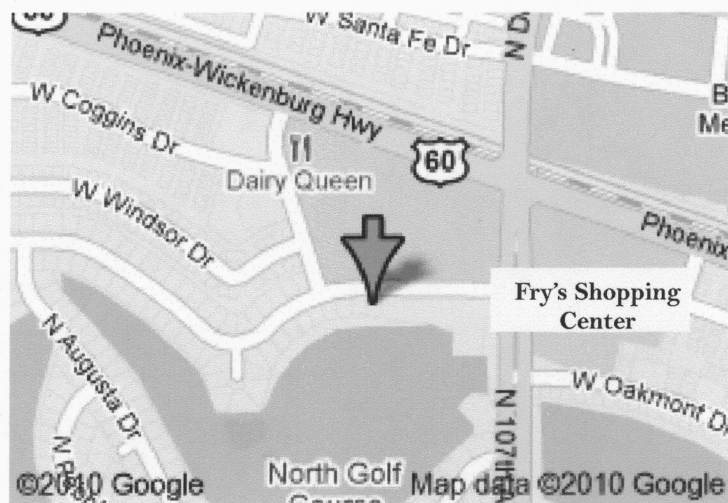
The first destination is Fort Verde State Historic Park with enactors on hand to bring fort activities to life, where General Crook and his soldiers tried to prevent Native uprisings in the late 1800s. Some of the fort buildings still remain.

Just around the corner is the Camp Verde Historical Society Museum and Research Center in an old "grammar" school built in 1904. Here guests are welcomed with information and light refreshments as they tour the small facility.

Cost includes the guide, transportation, admission fees, donations, lunch, snack, water and driver gratuity. Fee is \$75 for SCAHS members and \$85 for non-members. \$40 is tax deductible.

Payment is due by Oct. 7 to Pickard Travel Service, PO Box 5168, Sun City West, 85376. There will be pick-ups in Sun City West and Sun City. Call 623-974-2568.

Editor's Note: Pris Fenner is a spokesperson for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society/Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.



10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City

Please join us for the unveiling of our new Sun City West Exhibit

November 18, 2010

- 5:00 p.m. Reception
Museum tours
- 5:45 p.m. Presentation of the Sun City West Exhibit
Wine & *hors d'oeuvres* on the
Constance McMillin Terrace
- 6:30 p.m. Program

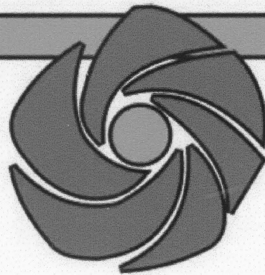
Bill Pearson, president
and the
Del Webb Sun Cities Museum Board of Trustees

Please RSVP 623-974-2568 or staff@delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org

You're Invited!

MUSEUM

Sun Cities



Del Webb®

Sun Cities Area Historical Society/Del Webb Sun Cities Museum
10801 W. Oakmont Drive | Sun City, AZ 85351

www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org | staff@delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org

623-974-2568



Independent Newspapers/Bret McKeand

Museum unveils new exhibit, terrace

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum celebrated the opening of its new Sun City West historical exhibit Nov. 18, as well as the dedication of its new McMillin Terrace. Edson Allen, a member of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Board of Trustees, unveiled the new Sun City West exhibit before visitors were shown the newly renovated backyard patio terrace. The terrace was the result of a gift from Sun City resident and former SCAHS President Connie McMillin. From left, Ms. McMillin, SCAHS Co-Founder Jane Freeman, and current President Bill Pearson.



Historian, author
shares tales Nov 6

Residents may only know a few Arizona
town folks, but those who attend the Sun-
day Nov 6 Sun Cities Area Historical Society
membership meeting can add Ruth Jordan
Van Egge to their list.

Mrs. Van Egge, of Sun City West, will share
her life in Sedona, and on the Hopi
Reservation with members and guests. A
member of the Oakmont Recreation Cen-
ter, she is at Del Webb Boulevard and
Del Webb Drive.

Joining great-grandparents came
on a wagon in 1875 to settle in the for-
mer Valley. Their great-grandfather, John
located to Sedona as a large orchard
and raised his daughter with them.
and a degree in education at the Uni-
of Arizona and teaching at Arizona State
College.

and her first husband lived on the
reservation in Northern Arizona, and
her second work with both the
Havasupai tribes. Later she turned
her efforts toward teaching four res-
ervation history, ancient cultures and
Hopi and Hopi reservations. Other
areas included contemporary SW Ariz-
onian cultures and crafts and early
American cultures.

In addition, Mrs. Van Egge was an educa-
tional leader and conducted seminars
and classes. She helped to develop
the first Open House Shopping Program.
She was used in Gilbert and Mesa public
schools, Maricopa County head start and at
the Stevens Center College.

She grew up listening to stories of the
days in the west, the pioneer men and
settling history. She collected stories
by her father to add to those of other
settlers and read her great-grandfather's
and of his 1875 wagon trip as the basis
for her book following their Westward
See Tales — Page 15

Join



Sun Cities MUSEUM

and Discover

**The Man, the Company,
and the People that
Pioneered the Nation's
First Active Adult
Community**

10801 Oakmont Drive • Sun City, AZ 85351
(623) 974-2568

www.DelWebbSunCitiesMuseum.org

Tales

Continued From Page 14

Star. It is illustrated by an aunt, and Marshall Trimble, Arizona's state historian, wrote the foreword.

"The title of her program is 'Early Arizona,' said Ed Cirillo, chairman of the membership event. "And of course we will have refreshments," he added. The public is welcome.

The Nov. 6 meeting is one of two featured annually. A new historical display of Sun City West will be unveiled Nov. 18 at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Historian, author shares tales Nov. 6

Residents may only know a few Arizona-born folks, but those who attend the Saturday Nov. 6 Sun Cities Area Historical Society membership meeting can add Ruth Jordan Van Epps to their lists.

Ms. Van Epps, of Sun City West, will share her early life in Sedona, and on the Hopi Reservation with members and guests 1-3 p.m. Nov. 6 in the Oakmont Recreation Center auditorium at Del Webb Boulevard and Oakmont Drive.

Her pioneering great-grandparents came by covered wagon in 1875 to settle in the fertile Verde Valley. Their grandson Walter Jordan relocated to Sedona as a large orchard grower and raised his daughter Ruth there. She earned a degree in education at the University of Redlands and masters degrees in education and counseling at Arizona State University.

She and her first husband lived on the Hopi reservation in Northern Arizona, and she used her social work skills with both the Hopi and Navajo tribes. Later she formed Tsegi Tours offering customized tours featuring Arizona history, ancient cultures and the Navajo and Hopi reservations. Other programs included contemporary SW Native American cultures and crafts and Early Arizona.

In addition, Ms. Van Epps was an educator at many levels and conducted seminars and training classes. She helped to develop the MesaFirst Offender Shoplifting Program, which was used in Gilbert and Mesa public schools, Maricopa County head start and at Patricia Stevens Career College.

As she grew up listening to stories of the early days in the west, she became interested in preserving history. She collected stories told by her father to add to those of other old timers and used her great-grandfather's journal of his 1875 wagon trip as the basis for her book *Following Their Westward*

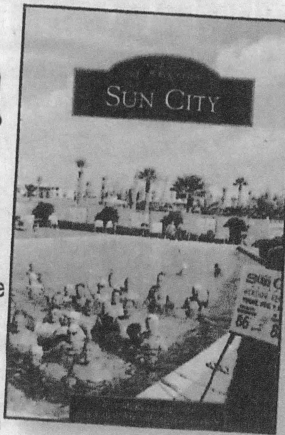
See **Tales** — Page 15

Own A Piece of Sun City History!

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has teamed up with Arcadia Publishing to create "Sun City," as part of Arcadia's popular "Images of America" series. The book traces the history of the nation's most famous retirement community through photographs from the archives of the historical society and Independent Newspapers.

On Sale Now for \$21.99!

Purchase at your favorite bookstore or online at amazon.com or www.arcadiapublishing.com
All proceeds benefit the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.



Meet author of Sun City photo history book at reception this afternoon

STAFF REPORT

It's not often that a reporter's on-the-job photos turn up in a book, but former Sun City reporter/editor Bret McKeand has written a small format picture history book for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

McKeand will talk about the book and sign copies from 2 to 5 p.m. today at a wine and cheese reception in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum at 10801 W. Oakmont Ave.

The book is the latest addition to Arcadia Publishing's popular "Images of America" series, and is their first of a retirement community.

It has a sepia tone cover, like the others in the series, and includes more than 200 historic photographs. The soft-covered book illustrates the pre-Sun City area, the building of Sun City, and continues through events of the recent 50th Anniversary year.

"Many of the photos in the book haven't been seen in years, and they reflect the joy and excitement felt by those who built the community and of those early residents responsible for its success," said Bill Pearson, president of the SCAHS Board of Trustees, of which McKeand is a member.

The book sells for \$21.99, and all author royalties benefit the Sun Cities Area Historical Society located in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, one of the city's first five model homes. The museum is open 1-4 p.m. weekdays, and preserves and displays the history of Sun City and Sun City West.

Speakers are available and tours may be scheduled when the museum is open or not open. For information, call 623-974-2568.

New book highlights history of Sun City

Former Sun City Independent editor and publisher Bret McKeand has teamed up with the Sun Cities Historical Society to create "Sun City," the newest addition to Arcadia Publishing's popular "Images of America" series.

The book provides a pictorial history of the nation's very first active-adult retirement community, and includes over 200 historic photographs culled from the archives of the Sun Cities Historical Society and Independent Newspapers.

The publication details the history of the community, from its pre-Sun City days to its recent golden anniversary celebration. Photographs originally taken by the Del E. Webb Company — developer of Sun City — shows the early development of Sun City and its growth throughout the 1960s and '70s.

Photographs from the archives of the Sun City Independent, which has been serving the community since 1960, continue the history of the community throughout the 1980s, '90s and well into its fifth decade. Sun City celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2010.

The project was supervised by Bret McKeand, who also served as the author of the book. Mr. McKeand joined the Sun City Independent as a reporter in 1983, and later served as editor and publisher. Many of the photographs in the book were taken by Mr.

McKeand or reporters at the Independent. Mr. McKeand is vice president of Arizona operations for Independent Newspapers.

"Many of the photographs in the book haven't been seen in years," says Bill Pearson, president of the SCAHS Board of Trustees.

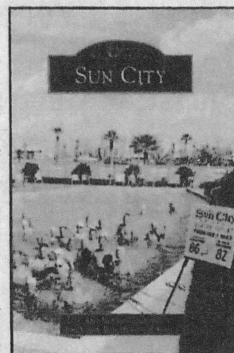
"These photographs are priceless in that they really do a great job at reflecting the joy and excitement felt by those involved in building the community, as well as those early residents responsible for its growth and success," added Mr. Pearson.

The book is published by Arcadia Publishing, the leading publisher of local and regional history in the United States. The books sells for \$21.99 and all author royalties benefit the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

The Sun Cities Historical Society was created to collect, preserve and promote the history of Sun City and Sun City West. The society operates the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, located at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City, in one of the first of five model homes opened in 1960 by the Del E. Webb Company.

A special publication launch and book signing will be conducted 2-5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. Mr. McKeand and members of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Board of Trustees will be available to discuss the book, and provide free tours of the museum.

The book is available at area bookstores, independent retailers and online retailers (including amazon.com). The book may also be purchased directly from Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com, or by calling 1-888-313-2665.





Book Signing and Reception

Tuesday, February 8, 2011
2 to 5 p.m.

Del Webb Sun Cities Museum
10801 W. Oakmont, Sun City, AZ 85351

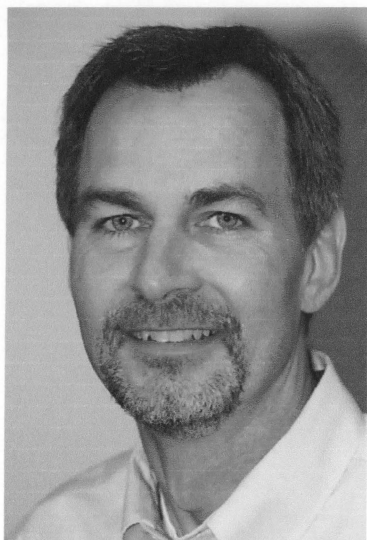
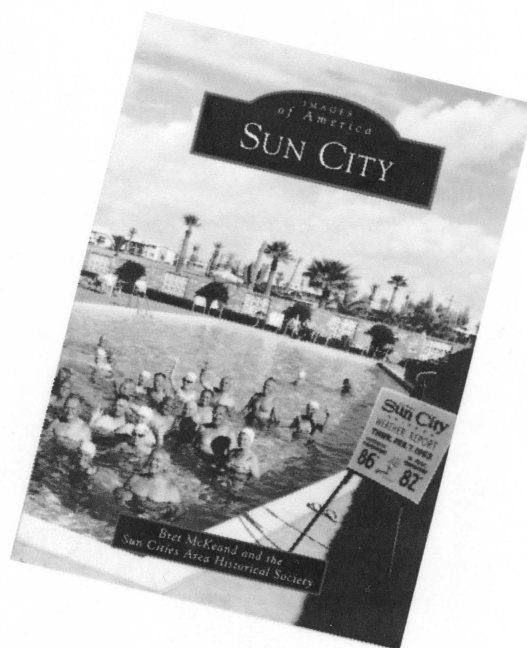
Come meet Bret and the others involved in creating this wonderful new volume.
Buy a copy for yourself and some to use for gifts! Only \$21.99

Images of America – Sun City by

Bret McKeand and the
Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Photos from 1960 through 2010
depicting a vibrant community of citizens
thoroughly enjoying their retirement years.

Arcadia Publishing



Bret McKeand, member of the Museum Board of Trustees, is a former editor and publisher of the Sun City Independent. He joined the staff in 1983 and became editor in 1985. He served as publisher from 1987 through 2009, and remains with Independent Newspapers, Inc. as vice president of the company's Arizona operations.

Bret resides in Peoria, Arizona, with his wife and two children. He and Sun City share the same age!

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon – March 8, 2011 on the McMillin Terrace



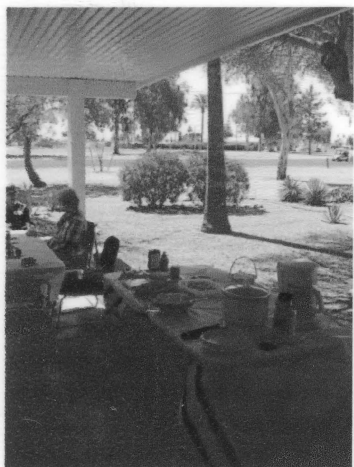
Trustee Arlene Macy enjoying the Terrace



Bill Pearson shared his passion for the museum



A beautiful day on the Terrace



Lunch looked good!



Volunteers enjoying speakers



Dorothy Rucker talked about how items are donated to the Museum



Jane Freeman told interesting stories



Arlene Macy and Mrs. Cirillo take on clean up chores

neighbors

E-MAIL SUNCITYNEWS@NEWSZAP.COM



Submitted Photo

Pat Forsythe, treasurer of the AZ Questers Yucca Chapter, presents a check to Priscilla Fenner, member of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum Board of Trustees. Also attending the presentation were, from left, in front, Ruthie Clark, Alice Bradshaw and Neva Simon, Questers, and, from left, in back, Karen West, Questers Yucca Chapter president; Bill Pearson, Del Webb Sun Cities Museum president; Forsythe, Fenner and Essie Mae Allbritton, AZ State 1st vice president.

Questers donate to museum

AZ Questers Yucca Chapter presented a check for \$450 to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum at a ceremony at the museum attended by Questers and members of the museum Board of Trustees.

The donation will allow the museum to purchase a high resolution flat-screen television and associated software to bring to life the "Ads that Attracted a Nation."

When Sun City was in its infancy, the Del Webb Corporation created a marketing campaign second to none. The museum owns volumes of the large ad slicks which have been tucked away because of their size and fragility. The ads will now be digitized and displayed in a continuing loop in the Museum's sales theater.

Bill Pearson, museum board president, gave the Questers a tour of the facilities and related the story of how the ads came to be in

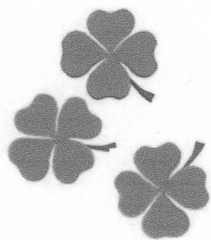
the museum's collection.

Questers is an international organization formed in 1944. There are more than 500 members in the 34 chapters in Arizona. Questers' aims are to stimulate the appreciation of antiques through study and collection, and to encourage and accomplish the preservation and restoration of historical landmarks. The Questers motto is "This Place Matters."

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is housed in one of the first model homes in Sun City. Located at 10801 W. Oakmont, the museum is open 1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and at other times by special arrangement. The museum also has a speaker's bureau, which can make presentations before civic and social groups. Call 623-974-2568 for further information or visit www.delwebbsuncities-museum.org.

Nice donation
International group
gives to museum

Page 18



Sure'n you'll be wantin' to join the rest of Del's Docents
for the
Lucky Lady/Laddie
Picnic on the Terrace

Tuesday, March 8, 2011
11:00 a.m.

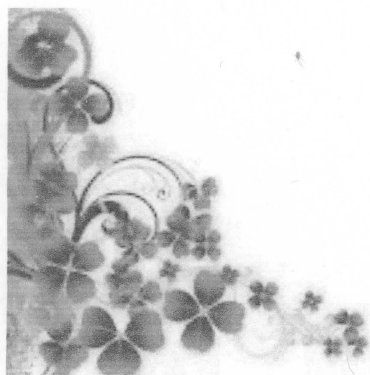


- * Short program on how to handle donations
- * Learn how to operate new wall-mounted TV in the Advertising Theater
- * Sign up for summer hours, which will be:

April, May, June and September
1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Closed July and August

- * Picnic featuring hot dogs and all the fixin's
- * Awards and all that folderol, including winner of February History Questionnaire contest
- * Lucky Lady/Laddie Door Prize – must be wearing or carrying something green to be eligible

RSVP by March 4 to 623-974-2568



May 31, 2011

Dear Museum Personnel:

The Rosie the Riveter Chapter of Sun City wishes to thank you for participating in Rosie the Riveter Day, on May 28, 2011.

The governor of Arizona, Janice Brewer proclaimed this as ROSIE the RIVETER DAY.

You really helped to make the day a success!

We would like to invite you to any of our regular meetings.

Except for June, July and August we hold our meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 11:00 AM at the Royal Café, at 10973 Grand Avenue, Sun City.

Sincerely,

Wilma Rees

Wilma Rees
Secretary

Del Webb Museum protects, preserves and showcases history of Sun Cities

offers a perfect setting for clubs and organizations looking for a small meeting room. The newly opened McMillin Terrace, which faces North Golf Course, can seat up to 25 people and is perfect for small parties, receptions or other gatherings.

And for clubs looking for an entertaining talk on the history of the Sun Cities, the museum's speakers' bureau provides a variety of talks on different topics.

First-time visitors to the museum are often amazed at what they find and quickly become "hooked" on the exciting history that Sun City has to offer.

"There's so much to see and learn about Sun City," says Bill Pearson, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's Board of Trustees. "A lot of people just don't realize the pivotal role this community played during the 1960s and '70s as the popularity of the active-adult community evolved. Without Sun City, that concept just wouldn't be what it is today," he adds.

The museum is operated by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, which was created in 1985 after it acquired thousands of Sun City photographs from the files of the Del E. Webb Corporation. The museum remains a depository for historic archives – both written and photographic – and a valuable reference for educators, writers and sociologists from all over the world.

The museum is a non-profit organization that operates on contributions and membership fees. Other than a part-time office manager, the museum relies entirely on volunteers to serve as docents, catalog materials and promote the museum as one of the true hidden "gems" in Sun City.

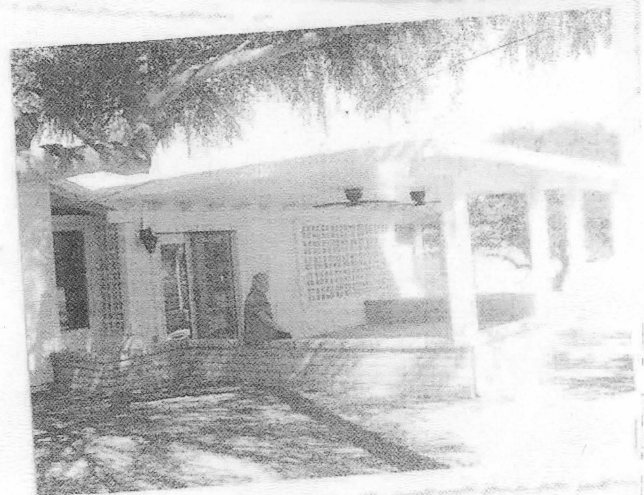
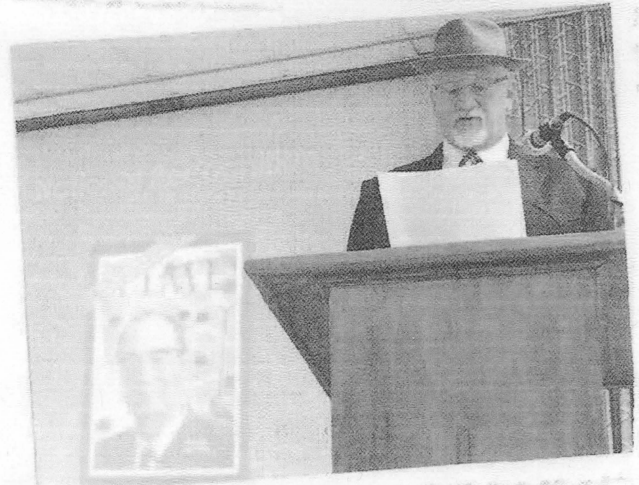
Annual memberships start as low as \$15 and are available to everyone. The museum's current membership is comprised not just of Sun City and Sun City West residents, but also includes a large number of businesses, historians and other non-Sun City residents who appreciate and value the community's significance in the history of active-adult living.

Members receive a quarterly newsletter and advance notice of special events, as well as discounts on all museum publications.

"The museum has a wealth of material in its collection," says Mr. Pearson. "It's really neat stuff and once you see it, you'll want to keep coming back for more. We invite everyone to come on down and get to know their community."

The museum is open 1:30-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, September through May, or by appointment. Hours are limited and vary during the summer.

Call (623) 974-2568, or visit the museum's web site at www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org.



History on Display

As the nation's very first active-adult retirement community – and arguably still the world's most popular – Sun City has a long and rich heritage.

Like the mythical Phoenix Bird rising from the ashes, Sun City sprouted from the cotton fields of Marinette to give birth to an entire new retirement industry that continues to thrive today, 51 years later.

Many residents are familiar with their adopted hometown's most visible and famous images – namely the abundance of golf courses and recreation centers that continue to make Sun City a magnet for new retirees.

But for those who want to know more about the community's past, a trip to the Sun Cities Del Webb Museum may be in order. Located at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, the museum is home to historical memorabilia and archival photos that offer visitors a first-hand look at the successful growth over the past five decades of both Sun City and Sun City West.

The house is living history in itself: The museum occupies the first of five model homes ever built in Sun City. The home was unveiled on opening day, Jan. 1, 1960. Outside, the home appears today much the same as it looked on that cold January morning 51 years ago. But step inside and you'll be transformed into a virtual time machine.

The museum has painstakingly restored the living room and kitchen to an early 1960's appearance. Throughout the house are numerous exhibits telling the story of Sun City and its sister city, Sun City West, which opened in 1978.

Photographs and mementos line the walls and fill the rooms. Among the rotating exhibits:

- The life and times of Del E. Webb, the builder of Sun City and Sun City West. The exhibit features unique, one-of-a-kind personal items on loan from the R.H. Johnson Foundation and the Del Webb Foundation, including many artifacts from his days as owner of the World Champion New York Yankees.

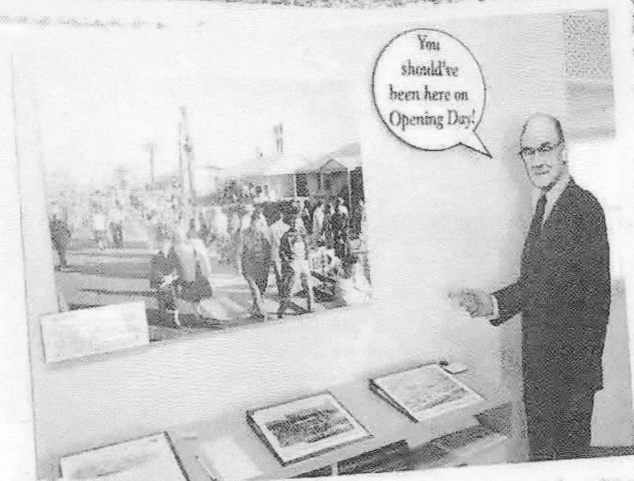
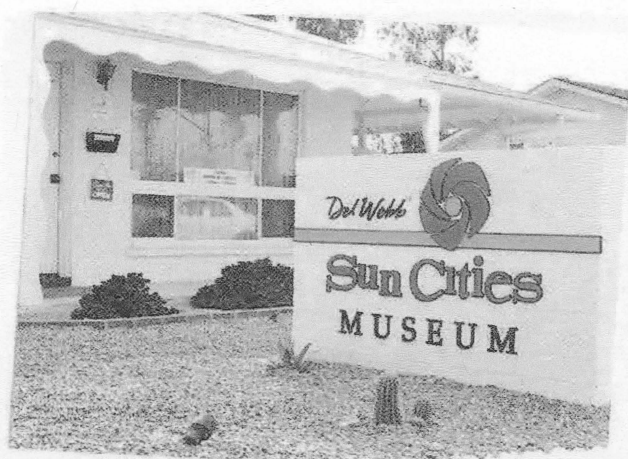
- Marinette: The cotton-farming community that once existed where Sun City now sits.

- A look at the advertisements and promotions created by the Webb Company over the years to market Sun City to the rest of the world.

- The story of professional sports in Sun City, including spring training and a world champion women's softball team.

- The history of Sun City West, from Lizard Acres to the second largest retirement community in the nation (next to Sun City!).

In addition to exhibits and displays, the museum



The Maricopa County Library District
and the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum
present:

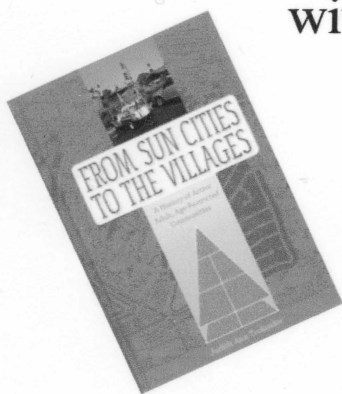


University of Minnesota, Duluth, History Professor Judith Ann Trolander

Author of From Sun Cities to the Villages, University Press of Florida

Speaking on:

**“Age 55 or Better: A History of Active Adult Communities
with Emphasis on Sun City, Arizona”**



**1 TO 3 P.M. WEDNESDAY APRIL 18
IN THE FAIRWAY ARIZONA ROOM**

Trolander's text book looks at the challenges age-restricted communities face, the expectations of them, and how they will change as the boomer population ages. It also details how these communities have redefined the sense of self-identity among the senior population, which has changed the popular opinion of retirees.

Prof. Trolander researched the role of the Del Webb Sun Cities Communities (Chapter Four) using the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum archives.



Museum charts history of active retirement communities

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is sponsoring an interesting speaking opportunity at 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, in the Arizona Room at the Fairway Center, 107th and Peoria avenues in Sun City. Judith Ann Trolander, a professor in the University of Minnesota, Duluth, History Department, will discuss her book "From Sun Cities to the Villages." She researched the role of the Del Webb communities in the Sun Cities Museum, which is operated by the Sun Cities Historical Society.

Trolander's lecture is titled "Age 55 or Better: A

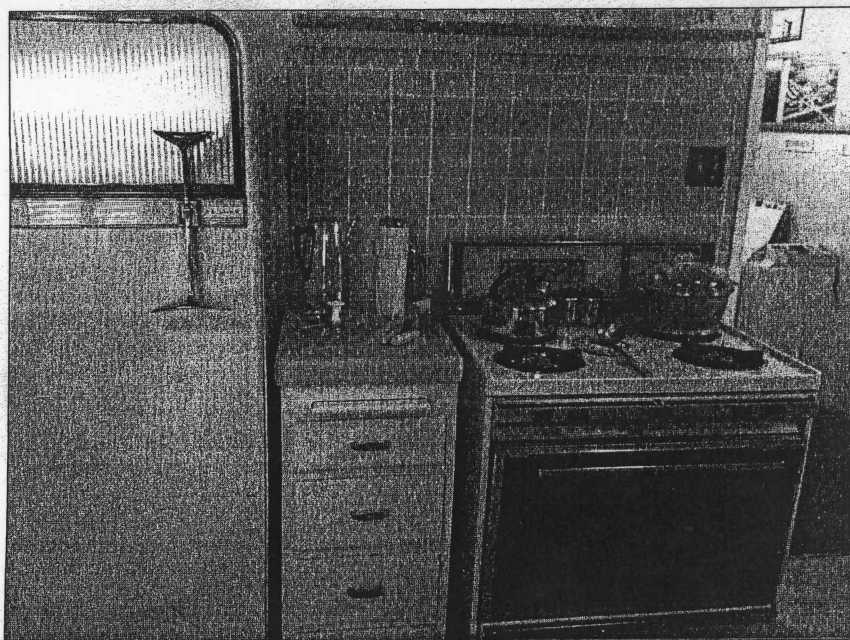
History of Active Adult Communities with an Emphasis on Sun City, Ariz." She wrote a 289-page textbook that looks at the challenges communities such as Sun City and Sun City West face, the expectations for them, and how they will change as the Boomer population ages. The book also details how these age-restricted communities have redefined the sense of self-identity among the senior population, thus challenging a popular opinion of retirees.

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, co-sponsor of the event with Maricopa County Library, will display

and distribute material on the history of the Sun City libraries.

The museum is based in the first house Del Webb built in Sun City, at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City. The museum is open 1 to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by appointment for clubs and other groups wanting a tour.

For information, call 623-974-2568 or email sc-ahsm@gmail.com. More information can be found on the museum's website at www.delwebbsuncities-museum.org.



Photos taken in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum show clockwise from top left, a display about Lizard Acres, which refers to both the railroad marker along Grand Avenue and a quote from one person about how the land wasn't fit for anything but lizards; a lifesize cutout of developer Del Webb, whose vision of an active retirement community gave birth to both Sun City and Sun City West; and the kitchen in the first house built in Sun City, now the home of the museum.

Sun City Area Historical Society hosts meeting in Sun City West

As the community prepares to say farewell to the Sundome Center for Performing Arts, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society will pay tribute to the Sun City West landmark at its spring membership meeting April 20.

The meeting takes place 1:30 p.m. April 20 at the Sun City West Heritage Tradition, 19303 New Tradition Road.

Guest speakers will be Ed Allen and Don Tuffs, both of whom are members of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Board of Trustees. The SCAHS operates the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, a museum showcasing the history of the Sun Cities and located in one of the first model homes built in Sun City.

The speakers will present a program focusing on the history of Sun City West with special emphasis on the life and times of the Sundome Center for Performing Arts. The title of the talk is "From Feed Lot to Sundome Fans."

When it first opened, the Sundome Center was the largest single-level performing arts center in the nation. World-renowned artists, world statesmen and former presidents as well as local clubs and organizations are among the performers who have stood on its stage. The facility was originally owned by the Del E. Webb Corporation but sold many years ago to Arizona State Uni-

versity.

The theater was recently sold to private owners who plan to demolish the facility to make way for a proposed retail shopping center.

Ed Allen and his wife Loretta have been wintering in Arizona since Ed's retirement in 1996. Ed's career was in advertising and sales promotion. He soon became active in the Sun City West Visitors Center. He later was enlisted by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society to write the history of Sun City West. Two years later, with the help of a committee of researchers, the book was published in time for the community's 25th Anniversary.

Don Tuffs has spent career in the Sun Cities. In 1978, as a member of the Del Webb Development Company's public relations department, he photographed the groundbreaking of Sun City West. He later started a number of clubs and organizations prior to the opening of the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center and became the first manager of the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts.

The April 20 is open to the public. Admission is free.

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum is located at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City. Call 623-974-2568.

LOCAL HISTORY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 2012 board of trustees for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, from left, front row: James McGreevy; Arlene Macy; Ed Cirillo, president; and Priscilla Fenner. Back row, from left: Hal Lind; Ed Allen; Don Tufts, vice president; and Bret McKeand. Not pictured is Norm Dickson, treasurer. The Sun Cities Area Historical Society runs the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.