

## SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This project began in the Fall of 1991, under the direction of Jane Freeman and Melanie Sturgeon. The object was to interview a number of the earliest residents, or "pioneers" of Sun City, in addition to Del Webb Development Company (DEVCO) employees and early business men and women.

We were interested in learning a number of things in our interviews, among which were: life cycle experiences of interviewees, the types of communities they grew up in, their work experience, what they remembered of the Great Depression of the 1930's and its affect on their families, how they first heard about Sun City, their experiences with and involvement in the new community, what they remembered of their interactions with DEVCO employees, change over time in the community, and controversial issues such as incorporation or taxation.

Interviewees ranged in age from the mid-fifties to ninety-six years. Some were not in the best of health during the interview, consequently, several of the interviews are not as smooth as they might be.

Release forms are on file for each interviewee.

## Sun Cities Area Historical Society

### ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

**Mission:** To collect audio taped oral histories and manuscripts of the Sun Cities Area original residents, those living in the area and those who supported the growth of the Sun Cities (Sun City and Sun City West).

**Description:** Oral history is the tape-recording of reminiscences about which the narrator can speak from first-hand knowledge. Through pre-planned interviews, the information is captured in question and answer form by oral history interviewers. The interviewer must have some background knowledge of the subject and considerable social skill in knowing how to draw the narrator out.

#### **Policy:**

- The Board of Directors will approve persons to conduct interviews.
- The Board of Directors will provide the names of people to be interviewed. Referrals from people already interviewed is encouraged.

#### **Procedures:**

- Make an appointment with the person to be interviewed. It is best to conduct the interview in the person's home. They will be more comfortable and the environment will be quiet with little background noise to interfere with the tape recording.
- Complete the Biographical Data Form and the Release Form (samples attached).
- Conduct the interview. The interview is started by stating the name of the organization, names of the interviewee and the interviewer and the date of the interview. See Tips For a Successful Interview below.
- Use the highest quality audio recorder and microphone you can. SCAHS has an audio recorder that can be used.
  - o Use an external microphone.
  - o Position the microphone near the interviewee.
  - o Use a microphone stand.
  - o Use a 60 minute cassette tape.
  - o Be sure the tape has started recording before you start speaking.
  - o Do not use micro cassettes.
  - o Do not use extended time speeds on recorders.

- Transcribe or index the interview.
  - A transcript is a word-for-word written copy of a taped interview. If time and resources permit, it is strongly recommended that transcripts be made of the interview.
  - An index lists the major topics discussed in the interview and the approximate places in the recording they occur.
  - Type the interview using either transcription or index. Use Times New Roman 14 font. One inch margins on each side of page. Number the pages at the bottom center. Line spacing will be single space. Do not staple the pages together. Place pages in sheet protectors. Place interview in the Oral History Project 3-ring binder. Place divider between each interview. Keep the Biographical Data Form and Release Form with the interview.
  - Assign the next sequential number to the interview.
  
- Process the cassette tape and transcript/index.
  - Type the assigned number, name of the interviewee, brief description of the interview, name of interviewer, and date of the interview on the “wrap around” label that comes with the clear plastic cassette holder. At the bottom of the label is a narrow strip which folds around the bottom of the tape which shows the assigned number and name of interviewee. (Optional: use a 2 5/8”x1” label to stick on the “wrap around label”; and a 1/2”x1 3/4” label to stick on bottom of label in lieu of typing on the “wrap around label”.)
  - Place an Avery 5068 Audio Tape Label on the cassette tape itself. Type the assigned number, name of interviewee, brief description of the interview and date of interview on the label.
  - File cassette tape in file drawer according to assigned number.
  - Prepare a 3x5 index card showing the assigned number, name of interviewee, brief description of the interview, name of interviewer and date of interview. Punch a hole in the bottom of the card and file it in the file drawer. (Use Avery 5388 3x5 Index Cards). File it alphabetically according to the interviewees last name.
  - Samples are attached.
  
- Submit receipts to be reimbursed for expenses.

### **Tips for making a great interview:**

- Keep the tape recorder or video camera running throughout the interview unless you are asked to turn it off by the interviewee. Never record secretly.
- Keep your questions short. Avoid complicated, multipart questions.
- Avoid questions that can be answered with a simple “yes” or “no.” Ask “how, when and why” questions instead.
- Keep your opinions and comments out of the interview, and don’t ask leading questions that suggest answers.
- Encourage the interviewee with nods of the head rather than audible responses such as “yes” or “uh huh” that will be recorded.
- Be patient and give the interviewee time to reflect before going on to a new question. Many people take short reflective breaks in the course of answering one question.
- Use follow-up questions to elicit more details from the interviewee. Examples include: When did that happen? Did that happen to you? What did you think about that? What are the steps in doing that?
- Consider asking to be shown photographs as a way of enhancing the interview. This often encourages memories and provokes interesting stories.
- Be yourself. Don’t pretend to know more about a subject than you do.

## SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Interview Guidelines

I am \_\_\_\_\_ and am interviewing \_\_\_\_\_ for the Sun  
Cities Area Historical Society. Today is \_\_\_\_\_.

Please give us your full name and tell us how you (or your family) came to this area.  
Where did they come from?

Where did they settle?

Who did they work for?

What job did they have?

Where were you born? At home?

What was your address?

What kind of house?

Tell us about growing up on the ranch/farm:

Chores

School

Friends

Shopping

Toys

Pets

Recreation

Trips to town

Transportation

Neighbors

Do you have any photos?

Do you have any artifacts you would like to donate to the Historical Society?

#### ORIGINAL RESIDENTS:

Where did you come from?

Why did you come?

What were you seeking?

What did you find?

What did your family think?

What clubs did you join?

“Chow Night” ,Song fests, the first Thanksgiving dinner, the first Easter sunrise service.

**SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**BIOGRAPHICAL DATA FORM**

Please Print Clearly

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
                    First                      Middle                      Maiden Name                      Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Race/Ethnicity (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Are photos included? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, see attached Photograph Log.

Are manuscripts included? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Are artifacts included? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, see attached Inventory Log.

Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**RELEASE FORM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am a participant in the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's (hereinafter SCAHS) oral history project.

I understand the purpose of the SCAHS project is to collect audio taped oral histories of the Sun Cities Area original residents, those living in the area and of those who supported the growth of the Sun Cities.

I understand that the SCAHS plans to retain the products of my participation as part of its permanent collection and that the materials may be used for exhibition, publication and presentations for the promotion of the Historical Society and its activities in any medium.

I hereby grant SCAHS ownership of the physical property delivered to SCAHS and the right to use the property as stated above for scholarly and educational purposes.

I do not give up any copyright or performance rights that I may hold.

I also grant SCAHS my absolute and irrevocable consent for any photographs provided by me or taken of me in the course of my participation to be used, published, and copied by SCAHS and its assignees in any medium.

I agree SCAHS may use my name, or photographic image or likeness, statements, performance, and voice reproduction or other sound effects without further approval on my part.

I release SCAHS, and its assignees and designees, from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of such recordings, documents, and artifacts, including but not limited to any claims for defamation, invasion of privacy, or right of publicity.

**ACCEPTED AND AGREED**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

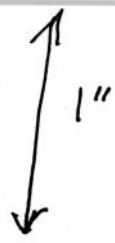
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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

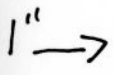
252



SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nancy Ann Watson

(The interview was conducted at the home of Nancy Ann Watson on July 11, 2006.  
The tape was transcribed by Belva J McIntosh)

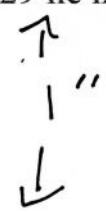


**BROWN:** I am Beverly Brown and I am interviewing Nancy Ann Watson O'Neal for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. Today is July 11, 2006. Please give us your full name and tell us how your family came to this area.



**WATSON:** My name is Nancy Ann Watson. Then I married Lee Acree, then we divorced. I had four children from him and then I married my present husband Darrel O'Neal. Now this is the story of the migration from Louisiana to Marinette, Arizona. In 1913 my uncle William Pinckney "Billy" Watson started a chain reaction migration when he moved from Louisiana to Liberty, Arizona because of his health. The 1920 census shows that some of my family had moved to Liberty but most of them - I found through letters and research, most of my family had moved to Marinette about 1916. Some of the families had moved away about 1919 and returned in 1921, then leaving again in 1927. Then some returned again in 1930 and stayed until 1935 making an eighteen year span in Marinette. There were always some of the Watsons living there. Those that had come from Louisiana in 1916 was my Great-grandmother Fatima Mandy (Hudson) Watson and she had come in a touring car with her son Rueben Elzer Watson. She had lived with her son, her husband was killed in the Civil War and so they lived with relations in South Carolina and then whenever he was old enough to get married she started living with him, so she traveled with him. She is buried now in Liberty, Arizona. My Grandfather Rueben Elzer Watson was born in South Carolina, then lived in Louisiana and moved to Marinette in 1916. Later on he moved back to Louisiana where he died. My Grandmother, Martha Ann (Mayfield) Watson, was born in South Carolina and her mother was a Watson also making all of their children double Watsons. So we are from two Watson lines. My father remembers her being a very gentle person and sick a lot, so she had to take it very easy. She could only do light work. She died in Liberty and is buried in the Liberty cemetery. My father Elzer Baskin "Slim" Watson was born in 1901 in Louisiana and then he came in 1916 to Marinette with his parents and two sisters and grandmother. He used to work all around, he worked as a mechanic around the different towns throughout Arizona. But his home base was Marinette. He came down with small-pox at one of the small towns, I think it was Bagdad and thank goodness he lived through it, I wouldn't be here if he hadn't. In 1929 he married Sarah Darby

1





AUDIO CASSETTE  
HOLDER

2 5/8" x 1"  
LABEL

USE  
"MY LABELS"

C252 Nancy Watson O'Neal  
Recollections of family in Marinette  
Interviewed by Beverly Brown  
11 July 2006

1/2" x 3/4"  
LABEL

USE "MY LABELS"

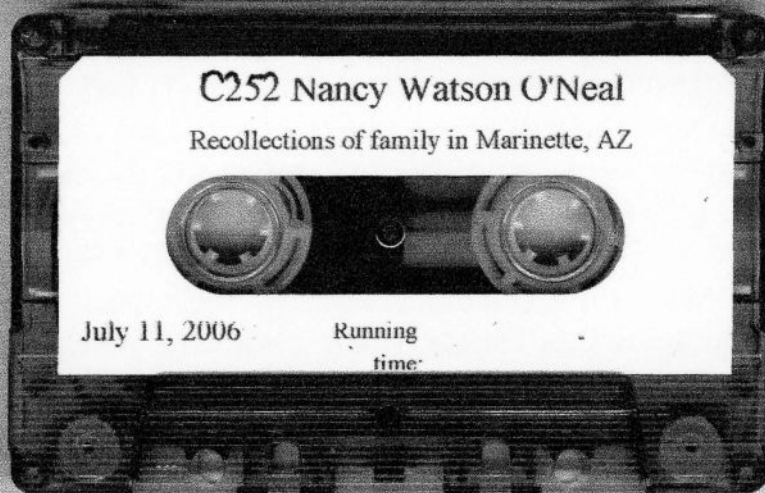
TDK

C252 Nancy Watson O'Neal

AUDIO TAPE  
LABEL

AVERY 5068

USE "MY LABELS"



3x5  
INDEX CARD  
AVERY 5388

USE "WORD"  
TOOLS - LETTERS-  
ENVELOPES

PUNCH HOLE  
IN BOTTOM  
FILE

*No longer used.*

C252 Nancy Watson O'Neal

Born in Marinette, AZ; recollections  
of Marinette and family history.

Interviewed by Beverly J Brown  
July 11, 2006



AUDIO CASSETTE  
HOLDER

2 5/8" x 1"  
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USE  
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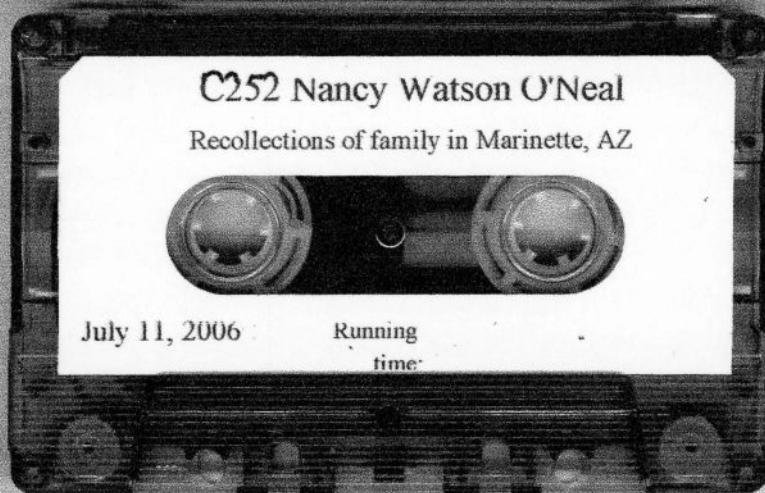
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AUDIO TAPE  
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