

Sun Cities Area Historical Society

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Case # 216

Interview with Zella Wilson

February 7, 1992

Date of Birth: 1907

Place of Birth: Lemont, Oklahoma

Zella and her husband owned the first camera shop in Sun City.

Synopsis:

- Father owned a jewelry store; mother ran a variety store. I have two older sisters.
- I was married in 1929; husband worked for paper in Mangum, Oklahoma all through the Depression; I worked in law office.

- I thought of operating a camera store after retirement.
- First heard of Sun City while visiting son in Arizona in 1961. Liked what we saw; bought a house; bought a business.
- Preferred Sun City when it was smaller.
- Started a camera shop on Grand Avenue; did quite well.
- Sold it in 1964 to move back to Oklahoma; lived between both places until 1966 when we stayed here permanently. Missed it when away.

- Paid cash for house; was a little concerned about money for retirement
- The neat thing about Sun City is that there is always something going on and something to do; town is very interesting.
- Became a member of S.C. hand bell ringers and joined the churches
- Remember Reverend Witt started the block parties and study groups.
- Husband instrumental in organizing Sun City photo club; became first chairman and very active; also involved in Lion's Club
- Liked Sun City ability to keep people active; thought it easy to meet neighbors and get involved; everyone eager to make friends

- Sun City Homeowners not in favor of incorporation; not against paying school taxes
- Sun City has not changed much, but it has lost its small town flavor
- Husband worked for Sun City paper

7 February 1992

Release Form

This interview agreement is made and entered into this 7th day of February, 1992, by and between Zella Wilson (herein after called "Interviewee") and Melanie I. Sturgeon (herein after called "Interviewer".)

I agree to participate in a tape-recorded interview with Interviewer in association with her research on Sun City, this research being done under the supervision of the Arizona State University Graduate Program in Public History.

This agreement relates to any and all materials originating from this interview or subsequent interviews by the Interviewer, namely the tape recordings and the indexes and abstracts of the interview, and any other written materials, including but not limited to notes, transcripts, or any other materials prepared from the tapes.

In consideration of the mutual covenants, conditions, and terms set forth below, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. Interviewee irrevocably assigns to the Sun City Area Historical Society and the Arizona Historical Foundation, co-owners, all his/her copyright, title, literary property rights, and interest in and to the Interview.
2. By virtue of this assignment, Interviewer and the Sun City Area Historical Society and the Arizona Historical Foundation will have the right to use the interview for research, educational, and other purposes, including possible publication.
3. All materials from the Interview, including but not limited to transcriptions or other finding aids prepared from the tapes, may be copied, reproduced and/or published.
4. Interviewee acknowledges that he/she will receive no remuneration or compensation for either his/her participation in the Interview or for the rights assigned hereunder.
5. Interviewer and the Sun City Area Historical Society and the Arizona Historical Foundation agree to honor any and all reasonable restrictions on the use of the Interview, if any, for the time specified below as follows:

Signed Zella Wilson Date 2-7-92

Interviewee: Zella Wilson (name)
11435 111th Ave. (address)
Sun City, AZ 85351

Signed Melanie D. Sturgeon Date 7 February 1992

Interviewer Melanie I. Sturgeon (name)
1535 E. Hampton Circle (address)
Mesa, AZ 85204

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