



Memo to Members

*Latest happenings at your museum from
Ed Allen, president of the Board of Trustees*



While the museum is closed for the summer, there's lots going on...

Exhibit space is being added as David Verble and Hal Lind mount two swinging panels in a corner to double the space available there. Think of it as the way Persian carpets are displayed at a rug store on hangers that allow you to easily look through them. The new exhibit will feature the advertising, publicity, promotional events, and other means that DEVCO used to publicize the new community back in the 1960s.



Our office manager, Julie Glass, and Dan Seabreeze are working on a new look for the museum's website. It currently emphasizes the material that has been digitized and placed online. The new website will be aimed at attracting visitors to the museum. All the online material will still be available, and Julie is adding to the online collection as more documents are digitized. This makes information on America's first active adult community available to researchers, writers, and reporters worldwide – and it preserves the paper documents in our files in the event of a fire or other catastrophe. Watch for the new website in late July:

www.delwebbsuncitiesmuseum.org

During the summer, the museum is available for tours to groups of 6 or more. Call the office, 623-974-2568, to make arrangements.



The museum's Speakers Bureau offers a number of talks on local history – how Sun City got started; the remarkable Del Webb; the role the Boswells played; the visionary John Meeker and the beginnings of Sun City West; and more. A new talk is in work this summer on the "Canals of Arizona" and the impact made by Wm Beardsley. His name appears in many places around Sun City West, yet few know of his 30-year effort to bring water to land west of the Agua Fria River. Sadly, he died two years before the Pleasant Dam was completed.



There is no record that Del Webb ever met boxing great, John L. Sullivan, but they did have one connection. Webb had invited Bing Crosby to the Phoenix Country Club for golf, and Crosby brought along screenwriter, Jim Grant. Relaxing in the clubhouse afterward, Webb was playing cards while Crosby and Grant huddled in a corner. After some time, Crosby called out, “Webb, why don’t you invest in this film so we can do it right?” Webb responded, “How much do you need?” “\$100,000,” Crosby replied. Webb called for the steward, wrote out a check, and went back to playing cards. The movie was a tremendous hit, and may have caused Webb to dabble in future films. It would be fun to create an exhibit about Webb’s involvement with Hollywood. If you would be interested in helping track down movie posters, we can supply you with a list of films that we know Webb invested in. Unfortunately, none were anywhere near as successful as “The Great John L.”

Looking for a photo op with visitors? Even though the museum’s not open, you can still bring your guests over to the museum carport and pose them in an early-model, three-wheel golf car. That’s something they won’t see anywhere else! One no longer has an engine, but the other was driven in the last parades in Sun City and Sun City West. The three-wheel design made them tippy on corners and hills, and they gave way to today’s more stable four-wheel designs.

Raise your hand if you know where the name “Marinette” came from...

Those who have visited the museum know that the two men who bought the first land in this area named it for their hometown in Wisconsin – Marinette. But where did the name “Marinette” come from originally? It traces back to the name of a remarkable woman, Marie Antoinette Chevalier, granddaughter and daughter of French fur traders, and granddaughter of Chippewa Chief Waubashish. As a baby, people shortened her name to “Marinette.” She eventually married a trader, and their home became a gathering point for both Indians and Whites. People soon began to say, “I’m going to Marinette’s.” As the home and trading post became a small community, it took on her name. By the time she died in 1865 at age 72, Marinette was well on its way to becoming a prosperous lumbering and sawmill center.

Another summer activity that’s underway is planning for this year’s Jubilee Gala. The committee has finalized plans to hold it at the Palmbrook Country Club the evening of Thursday, November 10th. Save that date on your calendar for an exciting evening. Details will follow later this summer.