



The Official Newsletter of the
**Sun Cities Area
 Historical Society**

Spring 2014 | Volume 23 | Number 1

Spring membership meeting March 25

Popular Arizona historian Marshall Trimble to speak

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold its spring membership meeting 1 p.m. March 25 at Heritage Traditions in Sun City West.

Popular Arizona historian Marshall Trimble will be the featured speaker. Mr. Trimble will present "Marshall Trimble's Stories of Old Arizona."

All members of the SCAHS and Del Webb Sun Cities Museum are invited. Admission is free.

Mr. Trimble was born in Mesa in 1939 and grew up in Ash Fork, Ariz., 40 miles west of Flagstaff. He presently lives in Paradise Valley.

Over the past 50 years, he has performed all over the state and has hosted several radio shows, including "Trimble's Tales" and the Emmy award-winning television show, "Arizona Backroads."



Marshall Trimble, Arizona's official state historian, will be the guest speaker at the spring meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

zona Backroads."

He has also appeared on "CBS This Morning," "Good Morning America," KAET-TV and the Nashville Network.

Mr. Trimble was named Arizona State Historian in 1997. He has written more than 20 books and is the director of Southwest Studies at Scottsdale Community College as well as a contributor to True West Magazine.

He was given the Arizona Historical Society Award and has been inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, the Scottsdale Hall of Fame and the Arizona Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame.

Later this spring he will be one of seven "History Makers" to be honored by the Arizona Historical League.

The meeting is open to the public, and refreshments will be served. It will be in the main meeting room in Heritage Traditions at 19303 N. New Tradition Road, Sun City West.

Inside our spring newsletter ...

Front seat for history



The museum salvages six original seats from the Sundome Center for Performing Arts.

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Museum welcomes new trustees

Paul Herrmann, Tim Ericson and Carolyn Dearen elected to serve on the Sun Cities Areas Historical Society's Board of Trustees.

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Vintage aprons on display



Newest exhibit on display through March 31 features 'Aprons Our Mothers Wore.'

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The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is certified by the Arizona Historical Society

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the records and artifacts for Sun City, Arizona, (the world's first Active Adult Retirement Community), and its sister city, Sun City West. The Society's headquarters are located in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, in one of the five original Sun City model homes.

Museum Hours: 1-4 p.m. Monday/Wednesday/Friday Or by appointment Office Manager: Julie Glass

- Board of Trustees Edward Cirillo President Bret McKeand Vice President Norm Dickson Treasurer Bill Pearson Past President

- Edson Allen Hal Lind Gail Warmath Paul Hermann Tim Ericson Carolyn Dearen

Newsletter Editor: Bret McKeand Contributors: Edson Allen, Priscilla Fenner, Barbara Brozman Layout and composition courtesy of the Sun City Independent

Message from the President

Society founder's gift inspires museum to carry on her mission

Our founder, Jane Freeman, who passed away last year, reached down from heaven to leave us a bequest of \$110,000. She wanted to ensure that the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum continued to serve the Sun Cities and keep alive how and why Del Webb changed these communities -- not only the bricks and mortar, but the concept of active meaningful retirement.

We hope to shortly have recognition from the



Ed Cirillo 2014 President, Sun Cities Area Historical Society

federal government of the historical significance of

what Del Webb created. To help us carry on the organization created by Jane Freeman, we need volunteers. Please contact us and we will match your skills and wishes with our needs and other office duties, be they as hosts, administrative tasks, archival protection and etc. We hope you can join us at our Spring Meeting on March 25, which will feature our State Historian Marshall Trimble.

Sundome lives on at Del Webb Museum

The Sundome may be gone, but six of its seats live on in the "Sundome JR Theater" in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

Visitors can enjoy the comfortable seats while being entertained by the film "The Beginning," which was shown to prospective Sun City purchasers in the 1960s.

Few know the story of the Sundome seats. It's widely known that John Meeker was the visionary behind the Sundome. He had built the Sun Bowl in Sun City, and upwards of 7,000 people would set their lawn chairs on its terraced slope to watch Lawrence Welk, Bob Hope, Rosemary Clooney, and other stars.

When it came time to



Nancy Donielson, left, and Barbara Brozman watch an early Del Webb sales video in the newly christened "Sundome Jr. Theater" on original Sundome seats.

build Sun City West, Meeker wanted a theater capable of holding 7,000 people indoors, in air-conditioned comfort.

Don Tuffs, the Sundome manager, recalls trying to talk him out of such a large theater, but Meeker was not to be deterred. He wanted

Sun City West to have the "largest capacity, single-floor auditorium" in the nation.

No detail was too small for Meeker's involvement. Early on, he told his people he wanted the auditorium

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Board of Trustees welcomes three new members

*Profiles by
Barbara Brozman*

Paul Herrmann strongly believes that Del Webb's Sun City Arizona is the best value for your retirement money. He touts this as Executive Director of the Sun City Visitors Center and encourages visitors to the Center to come to the Del Webb Museum to learn how Sun City began.

As a new museum board member one of Paul's goals is to increase museum membership. He feels a good way to do this is by having more "special" display/exhibits like the "Aprons Our Mothers Wore" exhibit going on at the museum now through March 31st. Paul helped out with it on Opening Day, Feb. 14. On Presidents' Day he acted as a museum guide when the two museum guides on duty were so swamped with visitors they very much so appreciated his extra help. Paul hopes a wide variety of "special" displays/exhibits in the future will bring in more visitors and more new memberships. Additional museum exposure in community newspapers is another goal he's working on.

Paul has his pulse on the community and says that the many incoming "boomers" want three things in retirement: reasonable housing, good healthcare and fitness. He feels Sun City fills the bill on all three counts and that "with more than 120 clubs, there's something for everyone."

Paul is a second generation Sun Citian, choosing Sun City for his retirement home just like his parents

Welcome to the
2014 Board of Trustees:

- Paul Herrmann
- Tim Ericson
- Carolyn Dearen

did before him.



Tim Ericson has always been interested in historical research and documentation.

Before retiring, Tim was an archivist at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls and Milwaukee branches.

He was responsible for collecting, preserving and making available the historical records of the university to those who requested them. Many students used the records for research projects.

Tim also handled the regional manuscript collection, which included business and church records, diaries and letters.

Tim was active in the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Wis., where he was map curator of a huge collection of

maps, mostly of Wisconsin, but the collection includes maps from all over.

Tim has been busy going through the museum's archives, including photos and scrapbooks, which he refers to as "records and scrapbooks."

He makes summaries as he goes along. These summaries will determine how best to handle the museum's collections.

He hopes to get the Arizona State Archives interested in preserving these materials.



Carolyn Dearen believes in the dream for retirement that Del Webb built and that today's Sun Citians are truly living it.

As a docent at the museum for the past 4 1/2 years, she has loved meeting people and sharing Del Webb's dream with them.

Now that she's a new board member, she hopes to get more clubs involved in the museum and to hold some interesting lectures on site to bring in more visitors and more new member-

ships.

As a way to save the museum some money, Carolyn has offered to do the landscaping with help from other board members. She has fertilized the citrus tree and rose bushes and has been tidying up the grounds so nicely that board President Ed Cirillo commented, "the place is looking better already."

Carolyn donned an apron for the Feb 14 Opening Day of the "Aprons Our Mothers Wore" exhibit and had a lot of fun welcoming the more than 65 visitors to the museum.

"Always learning" is one of Carolyn's mottos. She hopes many more visitors will come to the museum to learn about the Del Webb dream and purchase a membership.

She sends a great big THANK YOU to all those who already have.

The Akron, Ohio native loves living in Sun City, Arizona and doesn't miss ice and snow "one bit."



In the beginning ...

An exhibit showcasing the community of Marinette -- the town that once existed where Sun City now exists -- has been moved to the front entrance and now greets visitors as they enter the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.



Docents Carollyn Dearen, left, and Pris Fenner wear aprons as they conduct tours of the “Aprons Our Mothers Wore” show in the museum. Their aprons are not vintage, unlike the 31 donated and loaned aprons displayed in the Jane Freeman Room and kitchen of the 1960 model home museum.



‘APRONS OUR MOTHERS WORE’

Newest exhibit showcases collection of vintage kitchen apparel

By P. Atwood Fenner

The 31 vintage aprons in the museum this spring are telling tales! Just looking at them conjures up scents of meatloaf, liver and onions and succulent roasts. One can almost visualize the chocolate, cherry and egg stains that were painstakingly removed from these home-made aprons worn over the housedresses of the homemakers in the 1940s, ‘50s and ‘60s.

Most of aprons were made in the Midwest and given lovingly to daughters and daughters-in-law. One Canadian mother even smuggled her aprons in her American’s daughter’s luggage when she came to visit. They all ended up in Sun City or Sun City West; some to be worn again here, others to languish in the back of the closet, and a few to be passed on to daughters or nieces.

Among the comments of those who attended the Feb. 14-15 “Aprons Our Mothers Wore” show opening were “Brings back memories,” and “Look at all those cross stitches!” Ethel Sanders’s apron has no stitches at all; it was cut from organza with a flocked design requiring no sewing.

The donated and loaned vintage aprons will hang through March 31 in the museum kitchen and Jane Freeman Room.



France Allion of Sun City admires her mom’s blue taffeta apron worn in Phase I of Sun City at church potlucks only a few blocks from the museum. She also loaned her mom’s blue and white crocheted party apron, one of two loaned for the show, which runs through March 31.

Curator Edson Allen mounted new display paneling on one wall and tied another panel to a display case so that aprons could be “hung” on laundry line.

The descriptions and anecdotes for each apron are on recipe cards. Guest curator Jeanette Kimble and Barb Brozman hung the show using only straight pins and push pins. The colorful poster and handwritten recipe cards were done by Carolyn Dearen and Pris Fenner.

“Uncovering the tales behind each apron was the most fun for me,” said Pris who designed the apron intake card to include details of the origins and use of each apron. Her mother had made her organdy lace apron from curtains in Madison, Wis. and brought it to Arizona where it was worn for Desert Rose Questers parties in her home and at the Friends of the Library bridge tournament fundraisers in the 1970s, only a few blocks from the museum.

France Allion’s mom wore her blue and white crocheted and blue taffeta party aprons to church events in Phase I, also near the museum. Grace Walston bought an embroidered Austrian apron in the 1970s at a thrift store at Peoria and 107th avenues, only a mile or so away from where it hangs today.

Quester Sandra Jordan, made her lacy organdy apron in 4-H in Iowa and wore it there to many receptions and here to serve high tea for the Yucca Questers; Loretta and Edson Allen of Sun City West loaned his mother’s crisp white “wedding reception” apron worn in West Allis, Wis. and in Sun City where the Rev. Earl Allen was chaplain at the Sun Valley Lodge.

Gingham (checked material) aprons were especially popular in the 1960s and were embroidered in “chicken scratch”

and “cross stitches.” The display features a bouquet of colorful examples loaned by Toni Ashby, Marcia Case, Pamela Miller and Kathy Schymanski. When in high school, Joyce Barrett sewed a colorful mini-patchwork apron out of her mother’s quilting scraps (photo at right).

Of course special holidays demanded special aprons: Christmas aprons are loaned by Carolyn Dearen and Ceci Brandon of Sun City West; and Valentine’s Day is honored by one from Marcia Case.

Eleanor Osband, of Sun City West, donated several pieces including an ethnic apron worn at Oktoberfests in the Schlitz family home in Grosse Point, Mich. Loren and Barbara Littlefield loaned a novelty Elsie the Borden Cow apron and tablecloth which bring back memories of outdoor parties in the Midwest.

Perhaps the most unusual aprons are a his-and-hers set made by Caroline Koopman’s aunt as a wedding present for her niece in 1956 in Illinois. Sadly, they have not been worn since they arrived in Sun City in 1984.



Alex Adams and Joyce Barrett, both Royal Oaks residents, admire this short patchwork apron which Joyce made as a teenager and loaned for the vintage apron show at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. She says her mother taught her to sew, using her own patterns, and this piece is made from her mother’s quilt scraps.

Reverence for aprons is shared by several who donated and loaned aprons. Marcia Case has shared her mother’s aprons with her daughters. And there are three generations of apron-makers in one Sun City West family: Janice Maisey loaned two of her mother’s aprons. Janice sews

and sells hers at the RCSCW craft shops; her daughter sews and sells hers on e-bay.

Even the museum docents wear aprons as they volunteer during the show which drew 120 people in a day and a half on Feb. 14-15 when refreshments were served on the McMillin Terrace.

Aprons stir pleasant memories of yesteryear

By P. Atwood Fenner

City folks used aprons mostly for protecting their clothing, but on the farm there were many other uses back in the 1940s and ‘50s.

The plain white full apron which tied around both the neck and the waist was the uniform of the day for the farmer’s wife. In the morning she filled it with oats, holding it carefully with one hand, using the other to spray the feed for the chickens while calling in her high pitched voice: “Heere chick, chick, chick! Heere chick, chick, chick!”

After breakfast, she would head to the garden to pick vegetables and fruit for the main meal at noon and the supper. This time the “bowl” in the apron could be filled with snap peas and beans, ears of sweet corn, tomatoes, strawberries or whatever was ripe that morning. It was great for apples and peaches, too, when they were ready.

Usually she stopped at the table on the porch to disgorge her bounty outdoors so that the tagalong critters could scamper away outdoors rather than indoors. The number of trips to the garden depended on how many people were visiting that day.

As a backup container, there was always the gray graniteware dishpan, which if not used to bring in the veggies, would



Docents Kathy Schymanski and Joyce Kirkham wear aprons while they greet guests during the apron show. Here in the kitchen they are admiring a cotton pinafore with pink flowers worn in Dearborn, Mich., by Eleanore Osband’s mother.

soon be filled with water and cradled in someone’s lap to peel or clean and cut the veggies into bite size

Later in the day, the youngest grandchild in residence got to wear the apron to gather the eggs in the chicken house. One got used to the gentle clucking sound and usually let the black and grey checked Plymouth Rock hens leave the nests because they were puckish if you tried to reach under them for their warm harvest. And you learned to steer clear of the mean strutting rooster.

These aprons soiled easily so they were changed daily, but being white or mostly

white when made of lightly printed feed sack cloth, they were presoaked in bleach water and washed with the bedding and tea towels in the gasoline-fired washing machine. On Monday morning its nasty PUTT, PUTT, PUTT could be heard for at least a quarter mile, and grandchildren tried to find someplace to play on the far side of the cow barn as Gramma hung the clothes out to dry.

Now this grandchild is 82 and thought she probably knew all there was to know about how to use an apron. But in the “Apron Our Mothers Wore” show she learned a thing or two. One of the novelty half aprons has a crinkled corner which seems to need ironing. On closer examination, however, it is a padded built-in reverse pocket so that the homemaker can slip her right hand in from underneath and use the corner as a hot pad. Neat idea! Gramma would have liked that apron.

And during the first week the aprons were on display, one woman’s eyes lighted up when asked how she liked the show. “I love aprons and wear them all the time,” she said. “My grandmother wore them too, and when we went to visit her, she would go out in her back yard right up to the train tracks and vigorously flap her apron up and down to stop the train for us to get on,” she smiled.



Unlock the Mystery of History

The past comes to life at the only museum in the nation devoted to the world's very first active adult retirement communities! Located in the first of five model homes built in Sun City, the museum offers a living tribute to the history of Sun City and Sun City West, and to the enduring spirit of those who pioneered an exciting new lifestyle!

Become a Member!

Show your support for the museum and its efforts to preserve our community's unique heritage!

- Copper Circle \$15
- Turquoise Circle \$25
- Silver Circle \$50
- Gold Circle \$100
- Clubs/Organizations \$25
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Make checks payable to Sun Cities Area Historical Society, and mail to 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351. SCAHS is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization.

Special offer

Join at the Gold Level (\$100) and receive a FREE copy of "Del Webb: A Man. A Company."
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Museum Hours: 1-4 p.m. Monday/Wednesday/Friday

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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE



Former president lauded by chamber

Bill Pearson, left, former president of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum Board of Trustees, received the Sun City "Citizen of the Year" Award last month by the Surprise Regional Chamber of Commerce. Bill is currently serving on the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors. Todd Hornbeck, right, past chairman of the chamber, presents the award to Bill.

Board, volunteers invited to Bandana Brunch

Volunteer Coordinator Gail Warmath invites the museum Board of Trustees, guides, docents and office helpers to a Bandana Brunch on the McMillin Terrace at 11 a.m. Thursday April 10.

Western dress is optional for the third volunteer appreciation event to be held outdoors at the museum.

"Hopefully there won't be too much earth moving

going on at the north side of the North Course during our festivities," she said, referring to the complete renovation of the 55-year-old golf course, which is only a few yards from the new outdoor entertaining facility.

Please RSVP to Office Manager Julie Glass at 623-974-2568.

Sundome chairs/continued from Page 2



Ed Allen (left) and David Verble mounted the chairs to a plywood base.

to have "first-class" seating throughout – not just front-center as in many theaters. He personally picked out the chairs that would be used, and set their spacing at a generous 40 inches between rows. It was one of few auditoriums where people could move to the center of the row without disturbing those already seated.

As plans progressed

in 2013 to raze the Sundome, Board President Ed Cirillo obtained permission to remove a number of chairs. He, Hal Lind, and David Verble entered the sultry, cavernous Sundome in pitch-black darkness. Working by flashlight, they unbolted six seats from a rear row and moved them to the museum

In January, David Verble and Ed Allen met to mount

the chairs in sets of three to plywood bases. They were then slid into place in the small theater where they now offer "first-class Sundome seating" to museum visitors.

The room was renamed the "Sundome JR Theater" in honor of the six chairs it now houses.

Welcome to our newest members ...

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum welcomes its newest members who have joined since our last newsletter:

Copper Circle

Michael Lenz
John & Joan Mork
Sharon Tieman
Borghild Gabrielson
Geraldine Horton
Jack & Jean Moody
Robert Post
Yvonne Rau
Ethel Sanders
John & Jane Weir

Gold Circle

Tim & Vallie Ericson

Silver Circle

Doug & Beverly Brown
Terry Guzek
Charles & Jeaniene Gerding

Turquoise Circle

Toni Ashby
Edwina Kozica
Jim & Marian Oftedahl

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