



Summer 2005

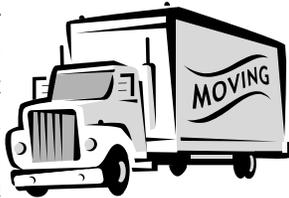
Volume 14 No. 3

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Obituary Files On the Move

When the Society moved to its present location, we initiated a file of obituary notices. Since 1958, notices have been clipped from the Daily News-Sun. Now we have run out of file space. Furthermore, we were duplicating information being kept by another viable organization whose business is genealogical records!

On May 24, 2005, our "obit" records were transferred to the West Valley Genealogical Society and Library, located at 12222 N. 111th Avenue, Youngtown, AZ 85363-1225; (623) 933-4945.



The library is a non-circulating research library specializing in genealogical records. Our collection is now a part of their collection, where it rightly belongs.

Ada Sullivan, president of the West Valley Genealogical Society, said, "This is an excellent example of the amity that can be achieved when organizations work in harmony with one another." We agree wholeheartedly, and we urge you to stop by and visit them.

We Applaud Our Volunteers



The Society is,  lifeblood of our without a doubt, our volunteers. We can't get along without them — they are indeed our shining stars! We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of . . .

Lillian Brackett

Sam Femia

Shirley Jesberg

Belva McIntosh

Sale Randle

Jo Ruck

Dorothy Slough

Phyllis Street

Jeannette Volkman

Ruby Wells

... and, of course, our *Board of Trustees*, listed on Page 2.

Thank you for your service to the Society!

10801 Oakmont Dr.—Sun City, AZ—85351

Open Hours—10 am to Noon, Friday and Saturday

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Web site: www.scazhistory.org

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

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Message from the President

GREAT SUMMER READING . . .

Over the past few months, I've read several excellent books about historical events, and would like to share three with you for your summer reading pleasure.

One that has ties to Sun City is *The King of California*, by two Los Angeles Times reporters, Mark Arax and Rick Wertzman. It's the story of J.G. Boswell and the making of a huge cotton empire in central California, converting a huge inland sea to farmland. With more than 200,000 acres, the Boswell operation became the largest farm in the United States. The Boswells added acreage in other states and countries, including the land that Sun City, Sun City West, and Sun City Grand were built on.



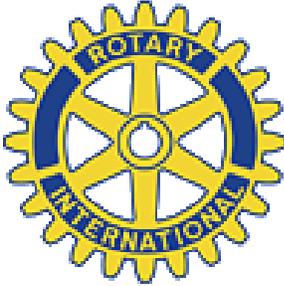
An interesting slice of Arizona history is the controversy over the Spanish Peralta land grant, and the nearly successful con man, James Addison Reavis. He came to our state after the Civil War, and within ten years had forged documents claiming his right to the Peralta Grant — 18,750 square miles stretching from Phoenix to Silver City, New Mexico. To further bolster his claim, he “discovered” a live heiress, and married her. He nearly pulled it off, but one man doubted his story, spent years investigating, and finally exposed the fraud. A trivia footnote: a movie about the “Baron of Arizona” was released in 1950, starring Vincent Price.

Moving to history at the national level, 2003-2006 marks the 200th anniversary of the Lewis & Clark expedition. By now, you are no doubt one of the millions who have enjoyed Stephen Ambrose's *Undaunted Courage*. The story behind this story, namely the negotiations that led to the Louisiana Purchase, is told in *Jefferson's Great Gamble*, by Charles Cerami. It tells of a time when it took a minimum of 8-10 weeks for a letter to cross the ocean, and for a reply to be received. The rich variety of characters involved, and the manipulations and mind-games they played, makes for entertaining reading.

As I've grown older, I've found history to be full of more surprises and suspense than most of today's “bestsellers.” If you enjoy history, let me know of any good books you've read, as I, too, have a summer of reading ahead! My e-mail address is: edsonallen@yahoo.com. I hope to hear from you.

Edson Allen
President, Board of Trustees

Granddaddy of Service Clubs Celebrates 100 Years



The birth of Rotary International, as we know it today, took place in the Chicago office of engineer Gus Loehr, when attorney Paul Harris met with several friends to discuss the idea of a club for professional and business men. Although Harris was the founder and organizer, he was not the first president — that honor went to Silvester Schiele, a coal dealer. Other founding members included a mining engineer, tailor, printer, and realtor. Not having a club room, they took turns meeting at each place of business in rotation; hence, the name Rotary.

Five years later there were 17 Rotary Clubs, and in 1912, Canada, England, Ireland, and Scotland came on the scene, and Rotary International was born. The founder of the first club, Paul Harris, became the first president of Rotary International.

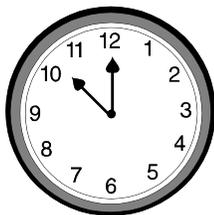
Before the end of the first year, the service to others aspect was endorsed, and today it is called the Four Avenues of Service: Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, and International Service. The Rotary Wheel emblem was designed in 1906, and was officially adopted in 1922 as their exclusive emblem, said to illustrate “civilization and movement.”

In 1914, two years after Arizona achieved statehood, the Arizona Rotary became club number 100. In Sun City, the first club was formed in 1962 as the Sun City/Youngtown Rotary Club, with Dennis Sach as president. This was followed by the Lakeview Rotary in 1971, and Del Sol Rotary in 1978.

Today, the three clubs, First Rotary Club of Sun City, Del Sol Rotary, and Sun City West Rotary, carry out the “Four Avenues of Service” with projects in the northwest valley, in addition to Puerto Penasco, Mexico and other countries. Among their many activities are sponsoring foreign students and awarding scholarships to students. Such endeavors bear out their motto, “Service Above Self.”

May the Rotary Wheel keep rolling for the next 100 years!

Source: “*The ABCs of Rotary*”, Rotary International, One Rotary Center, 1560 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, Illinois



SUMMER HOURS

June, July, August

**10am to Noon
Friday and Saturday
(or by appointment)**

We have a washing machine!

Rose Siegmond has graciously donated her Sears Kenmore washing machine, which is now installed in the kitchen.

No . . . you can't do your laundry, as it is not "hooked up"!

New in our library collection

Lloyd Clark's books are now a part of our collection. The Daily News-Sun column, "As Time Goes By," written by Sun City author Lloyd Clark, has evolved into three books. No doubt the titles ring a bell — they came from "Casablanca," the 1943 award-winning film.

Here's Looking at You - (1997)

The Usual Suspects - (1998)

You Must Remember This - (1999)

All three books are filled with personality sketches, historical trivia, origin of names and places, reflections on daily living, and more, all treated with an enjoyable sense of humor. Arizona Republic reporter Sam Lowe wrote in 1997, "Lloyd drifts in and out of our lives, brightening our days, easing the tedium, and turning a frown into a smile."

We have also recently acquired a research paper by *George Shirley*:

"Wake Up and Live!: Sun City as an Idea"
University of Arizona, 2004

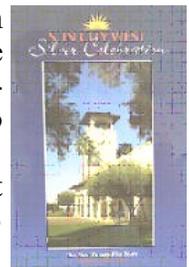
We are pleased to have these additions to our expanding collection of reading materials.

Here's a Good Deal!

Sun City West: A Silver Celebration, edited by our Society president, Edson Allen, is now available at a special price of only **\$6.00!** This comprehensive history, written in an enjoyable, easy-to-read style, was published to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Sun City West. You will want to add it to your own personal library. It will make an excellent gift, also.

The book may be purchased at the Society headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, and the Sun City West Visitors Center, located at 13823 Camino del Sol. Call (623) 974-2568 if you wish to place a mail order.

Take advantage of this special price now!



Cotton and copper are synonymous with Arizona, and the Sun City area was a part of the action. It was here that the J.G. Boswell Company farmed acres of cotton in what was to become Sun City — “out of the ashes of Marinette.”

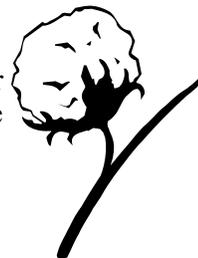
In our forthcoming newsletters, we will be presenting a series on cotton, ranging from seed to the final product. Inasmuch as many of us have moved here from non-cotton growing areas, we thought this topic would be of interest.

We wish to thank the Arizona Cotton Growers Association, the National Cotton Council, and SUPIMA for providing us with much information.

The Story of Cotton

WHAT IS COTTON?

The dictionary defines cotton as “plants cultivated in warm climates for the fiber surrounding their seed; the soft white downy fiber attached to the seed of the cotton plant; thread or cloth manufactured from cotton fiber.”



HISTORY OF COTTON

No one knows exactly how old cotton is. Scientists searching caves in Mexico found bits of cotton bolls and pieces of cotton cloth that proved to be at least 7,000 years old. They also found that the cotton itself was much like that grown in America today.

In the Indus River Valley in Pakistan, cotton was being grown, spun, and woven into cloth 3,000 years before the birth of Christ. At about the same time, natives of Egypt’s Nile Valley were making and wearing cotton clothing.

Arab merchants brought cotton cloth to Europe about 600 A.D. When Columbus discovered America in 1492, he found cotton growing in the Bahama Islands. By 1500, cotton was known generally throughout the world.

Cotton seeds are believed to have been planted in Florida in 1556, and in Virginia in 1607. By 1616, colonists were growing cotton along the James River in Virginia. Pima cotton was first harvested in Arizona in 1912.

Future issues will present articles on the importance of cotton, how cotton is grown, ginned, spun, and woven, and PIMA cotton. We hope you enjoy this special feature.

In Our Gift Shop

A new pamphlet, “KWAO, Sun City,” written by **Nancy Brandt**, has been added to the series titled “Memories of the Sun Cities.” The story of the radio station and tower is described in this 27th addition to the series. The station is off the air, and is an interesting part of Sun City’s history. The pamphlets are only 10 cents each, and are available at the Society.

Mark Your Calendar . . .

FALL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2005

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Place: First Presbyterian Church, Sun City

Speaker: *Reba Grandrud*, former director of the Arizona Historical Society Museum in Papago Park, Phoenix.

Watch for details of this special event in our Fall Newsletter

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS

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MARY CRABTREE
JUDITH A. TROLANDER
LARRY AND RENEE DILTS

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