


A PIECE OF HISTORY



 **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**
Dr. Arthur Miller
120 Dickman Dr SW
Ruskin, FL 33570

SUN City Center

Aleta Jonie Maschek

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The Shopper
Observer News

PREFACE
ALETA JONIE MASCHEK
A PIECE OF HISTORY

Our present roots lie deep in the past, It is from the past that we discover how today's present became into being.

Civilization as we know it today would have been inconceivable without the knowledge of writing.

Florida became a territory of the United States in 1821 and soon many of your ancestors came to this new territory. It wasn't until 1845 that Florida became the 27th State.

Our interest in history started when we found no inconceivable history in the County Library of the areas of Ruskin, Sun City, Wimauma, Gibsonton, Riverview, Balm, Fort Lonesome, Picnic, Duette, Parrish, or Sun City Center.

Thus my venture began. If you are a native we hope to bring back memories and images of those long lost years and if you are not we hope to reveal a fascinating panorama of what went on before you arrived.

With our knowledge of writing we have made incredible voyages of discovery. From the many Bibles you have provided me with the dates of births marriages and deaths, with this we have learned about you and your ancestors. I'm grateful to each of you who have invited me into your homes for an interview. Without you, there would not be "A PIECE OF HISTORY"

INDEX TO BOOK THREE
SUNCITY CENTER, FL.

Early Days, by Dorothy Bernhardt
Spotlight: Walter Spain, Edward Peattie,
Herberta Sage, Ina Coplan
Phil Lange, John Kirkemo

Simmons Lake

Spotlight: Roberta Rowe,
Garfield and Mary Sager
Jim Farley

Early Golf, by Eleanor Peterson
Sun City Center Shopping Center

Barbra Bush

Swan Lake, Glenn Sweeney

Dr. Floyd A. Peyton, Dentist

Spotlight: Walter Hudson, Fay Kenna, Bea Peyton

Barry Roberts {A street in Sun City Center named
for him}

Francis Coune: College University of Tampa

Spotlight: Julie Simpson, Robins and Lavier

Sandy Newell: Olympics Deja Vu

Paul Robbins Professor (Elsie the Cow)

Ed Powers {Organized the first fire station}

Recording pictures of Kings Point Beginning
by Stan Piehl

Reggie Emerson at Kings Inn

Organizer Jackie Fenzau

Baseball Pittsburg Steelers Charlie Muse, Freedom
Plaza

Fred Russell Sun City Ctr, Had a Fred Russell Day}

Robert and Diana Glang

Tom Eldridge Singer with Big Bands

Dedicated to my family:

*Husband Matt, Daughter Jackie,
Grandchildren, Rob, Julie, Ried,
Daren, Kristin, Kayla, Kelli and
Ciera,*

One of the first people who was Del Webb, who was 27 and lived in Lake Park.

For many years and memories of the past were there for Del Webb, who was 27 and lived in Lake Park.

Of course, to Sun City Center in 1962, and later in Kings Inn until the time, long talk, I did live here, and before long they consider Del Webb, who was 27 and lived in Lake Park.

They were building South Lake and I wanted my home there. The banks of the lake kept falling in so it took much longer for our home to be built. It was 1906 Amhurst Circle, with three bedrooms and two baths for \$13,000 cash. We soon added 30 feet on the lake side and built a dock and purchased a boat.

Del Bernhardt was born in New York June 16, 1904, to opera singer Emily Bennett Logan and Harry Craig Logan. Because of her mother's career she stayed much of her life with her grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. James Albert Bernhart, who owned a 3th Avenue home in New York City as well as a 150-acre summer residence in Fair Haven, N.Y., on Lake Ontario. Del relates that she dearly loved the farm and hated the home in New York City.

"I never had time for bridge or golf. I was too busy being president of clubs and serving on boards of directors. Today many of the new-comers can't understand why I never play golf or bridge, because that is what everyone does now."

Del Bernhardt was president of the Hi-Neighbor Club in 1966, a club that welcomed every newcomer to Sun City Center.

"In those days," says Del, "everyone knew everyone who lived here. The first move-ins were on April 23, 1962, numbered 29 people. Four are still living here — Frank and Mildred Ward, Mabel Johnson and Ed Lindemann. "The Hi-Neighbor Club was formed on May 2, 1962. The first wedding here was Oct. 11, 1962. Skip Freeman married Martha Gillens. In 1963 the Pioneer Club was organized. In February 1963 Town Hall Committee was formed, which became the Civic Association on Aug. 26, 1964."

In October 1963 King Arthur Dining Room opened with a gala affair. This is now known as Sun City Center Hotel.

"In 1964 South Lake was finally completed and we moved into our new home. Del Webb's claim of heavy expenses of \$200 a month was beginning to vanish. In August

1964 the Civic Association was formed with Tom Jensen as first president.

"The Emergency Squad was organized in the fall and a Woman's Club who sponsored a Disaster Unit. Ray Watson headed the Emergency Squad.

"In 1965 was one of the biggest events in the history of Sun City Center. On Feb. 7 we had an air show with 90,000 people jamming the highway all the way back to Tampa. Eighty light planes lined the air strip along S.R. 674. The Kings Inn dining area and coffee shop were swamped. This was heaven sent for the Del Webb officials.

"The second nine-hole golf course was completed in 1965 and due to the mistakes, picnic were moved to the new Town Hall. The first ambulance was bought in March 1966. I rode in it with the first patient on July 4, a victim of a picnic accident.

"By 1968 we had 2,500 residents. In 1970 I became a director of the Civic Association and held that position for seven years. On Sept. 16 the first baby was born in Sun City Center. An 8-1/2 pound girl delivered by Margaret Burkhardt to Mr. and Mrs. William Gray. It was the morning of May 24, 1971, that the King's Inn burned to the ground. A new one was built on Nov. 3, 1972.

"In 1971 the residents formed and opened the Sun City Center Bank. In 1972 Del Webb Corp. donated 12,000 acres to the W.G. Corp. for \$13.7 million with the title completed on March 12. On Aug. 28 W.G. Corp. turned over Town Hall complex to the Civic Association. In 1973, \$30 annual fee went into effect. We received a plaque for the most outstanding retirement community in the state on July 19, 1973. The Sun Theatre opened on Dec. 20. In 1974 the Arts and Crafts buildings were dedicated in November."

DEL WEBB

Early Days Of Sun City Center

By Aleta Jonie Maschek

In the past three and a half years we have written history from River-view, Gibsonton, Fort Lonesome, Sun City, Picnic, Wimauma, Apollo Beach and Ruskin, finding pioneers in every community. If we have missed your family, please contact us.

We found that the cattle range between Ruskin and Wimauma no longer exists. Sun City Center is now located where the cattle range and dirt Indian trails had been.

In 1960-61 Del Webb, his architects, and engineers planned and designed Sun City which later had the name changed to Sun City Center because a community south of Ruskin was already named Sun City.

Sun City Center has its pioneers who were there at the beginning of this community.

One of the first residents was Dot Bernhardt, who is now 87 and lives in Lake Towers.

For many awards and memories from the past were above her desk and on the walls in her comfortable suite in the Towers.

"I came to Sun City Center in 1962, and lived in Kings Inn until our home was built. I did live here, long before some that they consider pioneers because they moved into their homes before I did. Rooms 2 and 3 of Kings Inn was my first home here.

"They were building South Lake and I wanted my home there. The banks of the lake kept falling in so it took much longer for our home to be built. It was 1706 Amhurst Circle, with three bedrooms and two baths for \$18,000 cash. We soon added 30 feet on the lake side and built a dock and purchased a boat."

Dot Bernhardt was born in New York June 16, 1904, to opera singer Emily Bennett Logan and Harry Craig Logan. Because of her mother's career she stayed much of her life with her grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. James Albert Bennett, who owned a 5th Avenue home in New York City as well as a 150-acre summer residence in Fair Haven, N.Y., on Lake Ontario. Dot relates that she dearly loved the farm and hated the home in New York City.

"After my mother and father divorced because mother wouldn't leave New York, I traveled to many cities and still love to travel. I lost track of my father then for many years, and did not see him again until late in his life."

Mrs. Bernhardt came to Sun City Center from Miami. She knew a few people in Ruskin including the Dickman twins, Paul and Pauline. Miami was getting too populated and they decided to build in Del Webb's new development.

Swimming and water safety played an important role in Mrs. Bernhardt's life. She taught survival swimming during World War II with the War Department training her in survival techniques. She wore full combat attire including a rifle. Mrs. Bernhardt has many citations, one for 1,000 hours donated in first aid and water safety; another for saving the life of a 14-year-old girl.

"I never had time for bridge or golf. I was too busy being president of clubs and serving on boards of director. Today many of the newcomers can't understand why I never play golf or bridge, because that is what everyone does now."

Dot Bernhardt was president of the Hi-Neighbor Club in 1966, a club that welcomed every newcomer to Sun City Center.

"In those days," says Dot, "everyone knew everyone who lived here. The first move-ins were on April 25, 1962, numbered 29 people. Four are still living here — Frank and Mildred Ward, Mabel Johnson and Ed Lindemann. "The Hi-Neighbor Club was formed on May 2, 1962. The first wedding here was Oct. 11, 1962. Skip Freeman married Martha Gillette. In 1963 the Pioneer Club was organized. In February 1963 Town Hall Committee was formed, which became the Civic Association on Aug. 26, 1964."

In October 1963 King Arthur Dining Room opened with a gala affair, this is now known as Sun City Center Hotel.

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SUN CITY CENTER



Jerry Annis poses with his mother, Dorothy Bernhardt in front of his Bonanza which he landed at the landing strip across S.R. 674 from the Kings Inn in the 1960s.

In this undated photo, members of the first Simmons Lake Association of San City Center are assembled at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack L. Lohr.

Sun City Center

I asked Dot Bernhardt about the time capsule we had heard about. Yes we do have a time capsule," she related. "It is at the flag pole plaza in front of the main entrance to Town Hall. It is not to be opened until 2076.

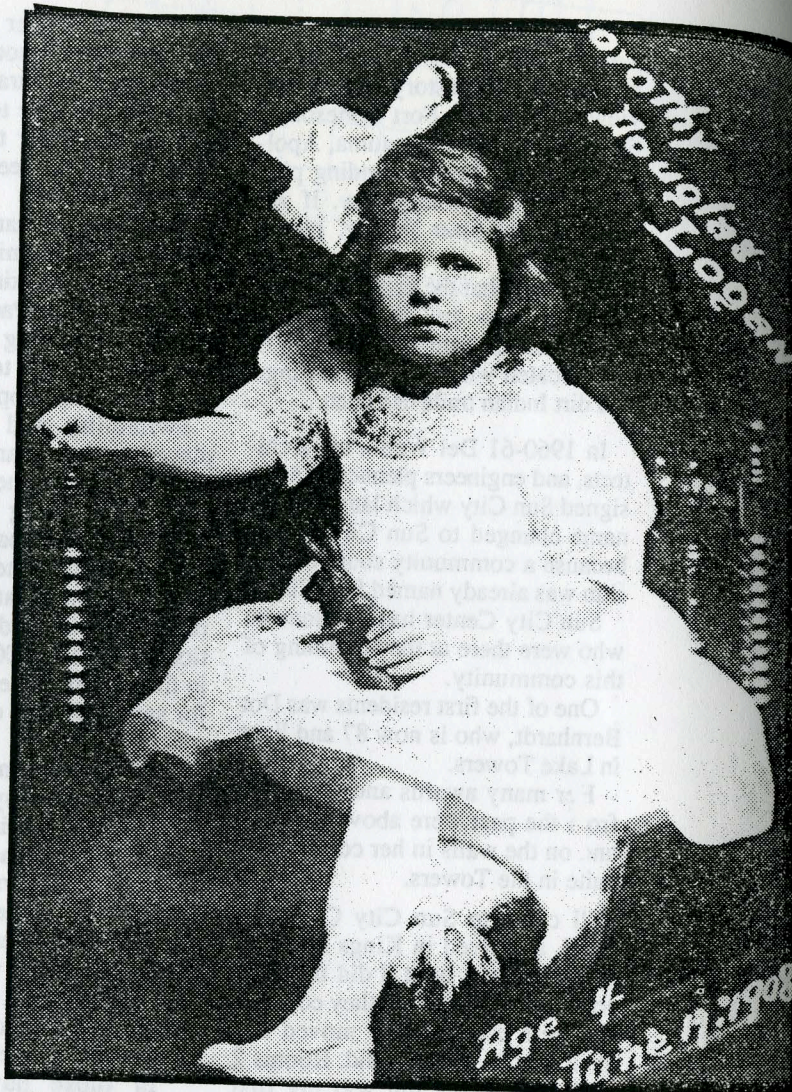
"The capsule was presented to Olaf M. Loytty, Bicentennial Chairman, by Robert W. McElroy, W.G. Corp. director of marketing. All contents of the capsule were chosen by President Gallant and a committee consisting of F. Virginia Dyring, Dorothy A. Bernhardt, Virgil V. Beilharz, and Earl O. Ewan."

Dot Bernhardt was the first president of the Residents Association of Trinity Lakes which is now known as Lake Towers. She was a speaker at the groundbreaking of this complex in 1978. This talented lady was active in the Sun City Center Swingers, was one of the Gladys Demetrian Dancers for years and still square dances at the age of 87.

She was president of the Spanish Club in 1968, which no longer exists. She wrote "Dashes from Dot" for the Sun newspaper. She served as treasurer of AARP, Chapter 2606, and treasurer of the Sun City Center Ballroom Dance Club. She is a life member of the Artic Circle Club. She has been historian of many of the Sun City Center clubs. Today, at the age of 87, she joins her jogging club at 6:30 a.m. each morning.

Mrs. Bernhardt is the mother of three children, a daughter Marion, and sons, Jerry and Bob. Her husband, Herbert, died nine months after they had sold their home on South Lake and moved into Trinity Lakes in 1977.

On April 19, 1991, she sold her 1969 Cadillac with a perfect driving record of 70 years. Her mother contributed two beautiful stained glass windows to the United Community Church in Sun City Center in their honor before her death.



Dorothy Douglas Logan (Bernhardt) was 4-years-old when she posed for this portrait in 1908.

A PIECE OF HISTORY

by Aleta Jonie Maschek

Simmons Lake Was A \$1,800,000 Addition To Sun City Center

Ever notice how many places in Ruskin that are named Simmons?

All of us know where E.G. Simmons Park is located, but do you know about Simmons Lake?

One might guess it is at Simmons Park, and then again it could be on Simmons Loop, or is it on Simmons Ranch?

It isn't located at any of the above places but it is located in Sun City Center.

Ellsworth G. Simmons, from a pioneer family of this area, was a Hillsborough County Commissioner for many years, and had many events and places in the area named in his honor.

Simmons was chairman of the board of Hillsborough County Commissioners when Simmons Lake was named.

Sun City Center was founded in 1960 but it was not until 1969 that the area south of S.R. 674 was developed.

Five small lakes were planned instead of the magnificent 23 acre lake which now exists. It was

planned to develop South Pebble Beach, New Bedford and Heron drives. Originally Heron Drive was to be extended to follow around connecting with New Bedford Drive and continuing on to what is now Trinity Lakes Drive. For some reason this did not materialize, and I'm sure that George and Lucille Grange were delighted that this did not take place, because across the street from their home is a short slab of cement with a post stopping persons from driving in where Heron and Trinity Lakes drives would have connected.

As we sat in the comfortable home of the Granges overlooking beautiful Simmons Lake, George Grange relates, "We have a Simmons Lake Association here and as a member of the association, I was appointed by the president to research history of our lake. I found that there are at the present time 81 homes around the lake. The lake is bounded on the northwest by New Bedford Drive, on the northeast by Pebble Beach Boulevard, and on the south by Flamingo Lane. The two

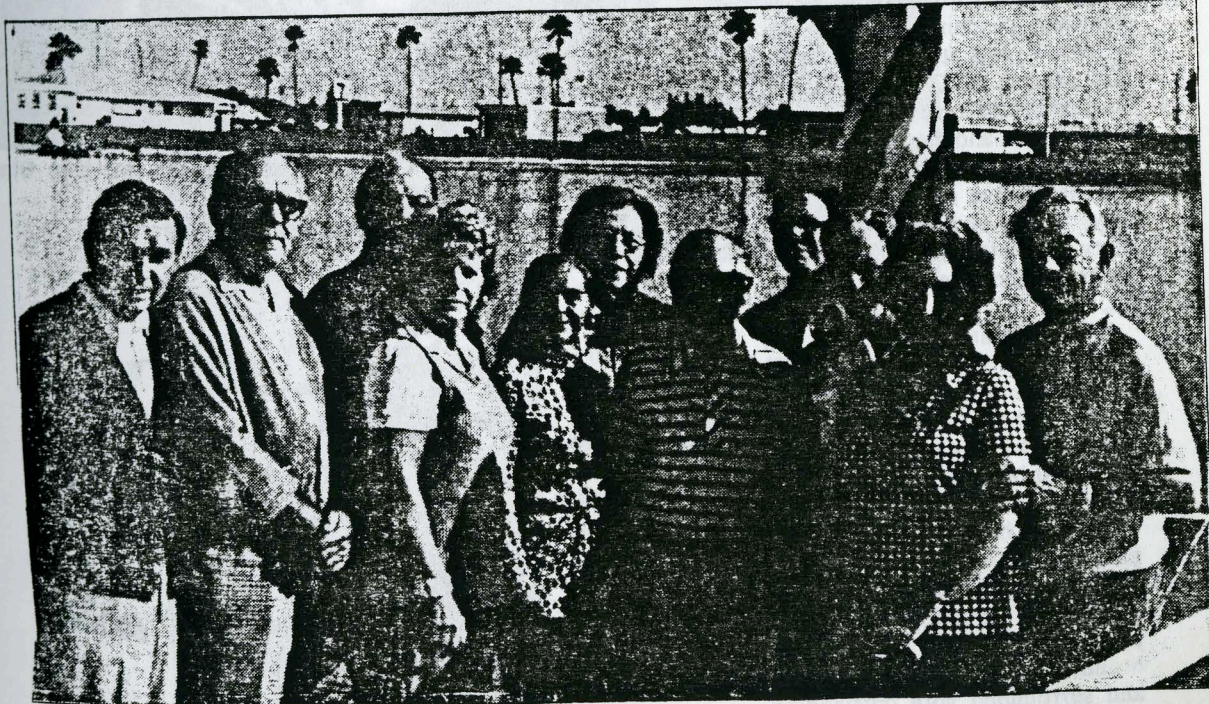
fingers in the lake are Blackhawk Circle and Heron Drive.

"Del Webb commenced excavating Simmons Lake in 1971, and the Walters-Gould Company completed the project in 1972-73."

We asked if the lake had springs and Grange related through his research that, "There is no firm evidence that springs contribute to the lake water. Numerous storm drains connect the lake to the surrounding streets from which much of the water to maintain the lake is derived from the rain. The Weir Dam at the western end of the lake allows overflow water to spill into a culvert connecting with Cypress Creek.

"As early as 1969 Webb publicized its intentions for Simmons Lake as a \$1,800,000 addition to Sun City Center. There were homes for preview in April of that year but it was not until 1971 that Heron Drive got its first homeowner, S. Jones, whose address was 1513.

"Sales were slow in the Sun City Center area in 1972, and as Webb was digging Simmons Lake, the



In this undated photo, members of the first Simmons Lake Association of Sun City Center are assembled at the flag raising ceremony at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack LaMaster.

Our spotlight shines on United Community Church College, sponsored by United Community Church in Sun City Center.

This college serves the entire community, with a purpose to refresh, inform and inspire those in attendance.

A non-profit undertaking, the college suggests a donation of \$5 or more per course, with classes meeting one day a week for six weeks.

Busy in the college office was Chancellor Herberta Sage and the college Academic Dean, Ina Coplan, who were preparing for the spring term Feb. 19-March 29.

Other staff members are: Gloria Cox, secretary; Eugene Stoner, treasurer; Mary Ruth Olmstead and Virginia Feder, registrars; Sheila Borchert, tours; Carl Nissen, promotion; Phil Lange, publicity; and Dr. Robert W. Gingery, advisor; with a staff of 16 on the board of directors.

Registration will take place in the Great Hall Monday, Feb. 12, and Tuesday, Feb. 13, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Ave. Call 634-8607 for more information.

We spotlighted Rex, a seven pound York-
ing walked by his master
Free-



HERBERTA SAGE and INA COPLAN



WALTER SPAIN and EDWARD PEATTIE

shire Terrier, be-
John Kirkemo at
dom Plaza.

Rex has come
to visit his
"grandmother,"
P e g g y
Kirkemo, who
is the mother
of John
Kirkemo, and
living at the
Plaza.

This was
Rex's first
trip to
Florida, but
he is a well traveled dog.

from 9:30
a.m.

We found two persons head-
ing up the committee, Walter
Spain and Edward Peattie, who
work each Monday, processing
the papers of those who partici-
pate in the day's activities.

They reminded me that our
own M & M Printing Company
provided the many papers that
go through this room every
Monday. Telling me they even
cut the sizes wanted.

This is but one of the many
projects the Kiwanis Club is
responsible for, as they sup-
port Meals on Wheels, The
Salvation Army, Terrific Kids,
Key Club at East Bay High
School and many more.

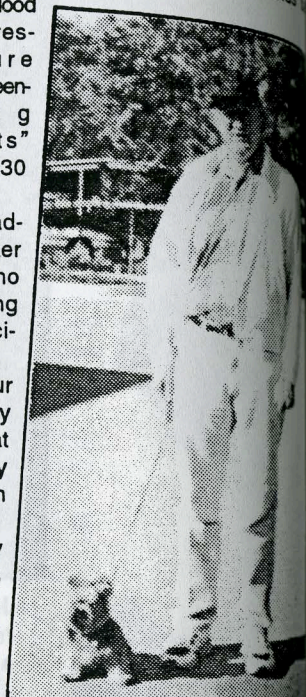
SPOTLIGHT

WITH JONIE MASCHKE

He was born in California, and
holidays has visited in Nebraska,
Kentucky, Tennessee and
leaving for his new home in Illinois.
We opened the door and spotlighted
Sun City Center Kiwanis Club doing
community activity.

Each Monday in the Florida Room
City Center the Kiwanis Club holds

blood
pres-
sure
screen-
ing
tests" to 11:30



REX and JOHN KIRKEMO

...member of the ...
Club. She has been ...
many of the Sun City Center clubs.
Today, at the age of 87, she joins
her jogging club at 6:30 a.m. each
morning.

Mrs. Bernhardt is the mother of
three children, a daughter, Mary,
and sons, Jerry and Bob. Her hus-
band, Herbert, died nine months af-
ter they had sold their home on
South Lake and moved into Trinity
Lake in 1977.

On April 15, 1981, she sold her
1989 Cadillac with a perfect driving
record of 20 years. Her mother con-
tributed two beautiful stained glass
windows to the United Community
Church at Fox Valley Center in their
honor before she died.

Dorothy Douglas Logan (Bernhardt) was 87 years old when she posed for this portrait in 1988.

SPOTLIGHT

WITH JONIE MASCHEK

JONIE MASCHEK PHOTOS



ROBERTA ROWE

Jim Farley has only been a Sun City Center resident for the past six months, but has certainly spent his time well in landscaping his yard with beautiful flowers.

We beamed our spotlight on Farley, and caught him bare-footed in his flower garden.

He comes from Dayton, Ohio and moved to Sun City Center after his wife, Jane, was transferred to Tampa.

He was self-employed in the automobile business in Ohio.



GARFIELD and MARY ALGENE SAGER

It was early morning when we spotlighted Roberta Rowe, getting out of her car to start a busy day at work.

She is a Realtor and has owned her own business for the past 10 years.

An education major from the University of Michigan, where she taught in junior high, she boasts a charter membership in Kappa Delta Pi an honorary society in education.

Ms. Rowe is a local member of American Association of University Women, and is active in the local chapter of American Business Women's Association, serving as president, 1993-1994.

Ms. Rowe is a Sun City Center resident and has lived here the past 20 years.



JIM FARLEY

We flashed our spotlight around the corner to the home of Garfield and Mary Algene Sager and found them swinging in a lovers' swing.

They have been in Florida for more than 12 years but have spent only the past four in Sun City Center, coming here from the Florida Keys.

Both were in education at Jamestown, N.Y. He was employed as a principal and she taught special education.

model homes were moving slowly.

"In 1973 a proposal for a South Sun City Center Association meeting took place, with the Simmons Lake people deciding to have their own association and the residents of Simmons Lake met in 1974 and formed their own association.

"We have our own Simmons Lake Association newsletter, in which we keep up with our neighbors.

"The purpose of the association is to promote and encourage a good neighbor relationship through understanding and cooperation for the general good of all Simmons Lake residents by issuing a guide of recommendations and suggestions, providing social contacts between its members and checking on overall problems of the lake."

The association's current president is Allan B. Dickinson.

The association controls the weeds in the lake, and takes care of all problems concerning the lake. They have their own docks, as well as pleasure boats.

Parties are taking place for each event or holiday, often on party boats decorated for the occasion. A social chairman plans the entertainment events along with the executive board of the association.

Some of the various committees are, ladies bridge group, couples bridge group, garden committee responsible for maintenance of county owned plots at the dam and inflow culvert; the Christmas Lumina committee responsible for the procurement and the distribution of candles and bags to residents for the Christmas Eve display which always begins at 6 p.m.; the block party committee; picnic maintenance and local Bay cruise committee.

"Approximately more than 200 residents through the years have lived around the lake," relates Grange, "and I believe George Tuttle, as an original owner, lives in the last house built on Simmons Lake.

"We still have eight or 10 occupied original owners."

As I left the residence of the Granges, I wondered how many people in this area know of the beautiful Simmons Lake hidden by and surrounded with outstanding dream homes.



Mr. and Mrs. Claus enjoy their boat ride on Simmons Lake.



Maggie and Joe Lingo dress up for the first Simmons Lake costume party.



Eleanor Peterson Recalls Early Golf In Sun City Center

As we continue the history of Sun City Center, we visited with a petite, vivacious lady, Eleanor Peterson, who was the first elected president of the Sun City Center Woman's Golf Club.

Del Webb in 1962 recorded the first sections of Sun City Center, 2 through 5 with the county.

In 1963 George and Eleanor Peterson arrived from the State of New York, moving into section two, where Eleanor still resides in

the original home nestled among the pine trees on the golf course.

In 1909 Eleanor Peterson was born in Tuxedo, N.Y. to Mary Anne Mullen Schaeffer and Richard Edward Schaeffer.

"Mother and father were married in 1896 in Tuxedo Park, N. Y.

"My mother came from Ireland to New York when she was a teenager and was sponsored by a lady whom she worked for in Tuxedo Park.

"Grandfather Carl Von Detolf Schaeffer, was a landscape architect and was employed to landscape and design the Richard E. Mortimer estate.

"There were five children in our family. I had two brothers and two sisters, who grew up on the Mortimer state. I am the only one left in my family now.

"My nickname was, 'Pie Face,' Why? I don't know. We had a great time growing up on that big estate.

We used to play around the water fountains, daring each other to get wet. I was the youngest in the family, and when small we would go to school in the village with a horse and wagon, and as we got older we would ski to school.

"Our home was on top of the hill and the school was at the bottom, so it was a great skiing slope, but the sad part was we had to walk up hill all the way home. We packed

our lunches for school, but we would go to the local drug store and charge some sweets to our father every day.

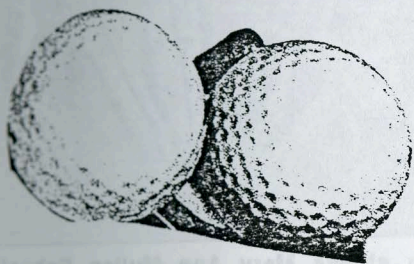
"One of my greatest memories was to fit 10 on a toboggan and ride two or three miles down hill.

"Our schools were lovely, as they were kept up by the people who owned the estates in Tuxedo Park. The school was located outside of the gates of the estates and we really didn't have much to do and led a quiet childhood. I do remember my first doll which was porcelain and had beautiful clothes.

"Grandfather had many employees to oversee his five greenhouses but he did let me pot plants for spending money. Our mother would take us to New York City to buy our clothes, as there wasn't any clothing store in Tuxedo Park.

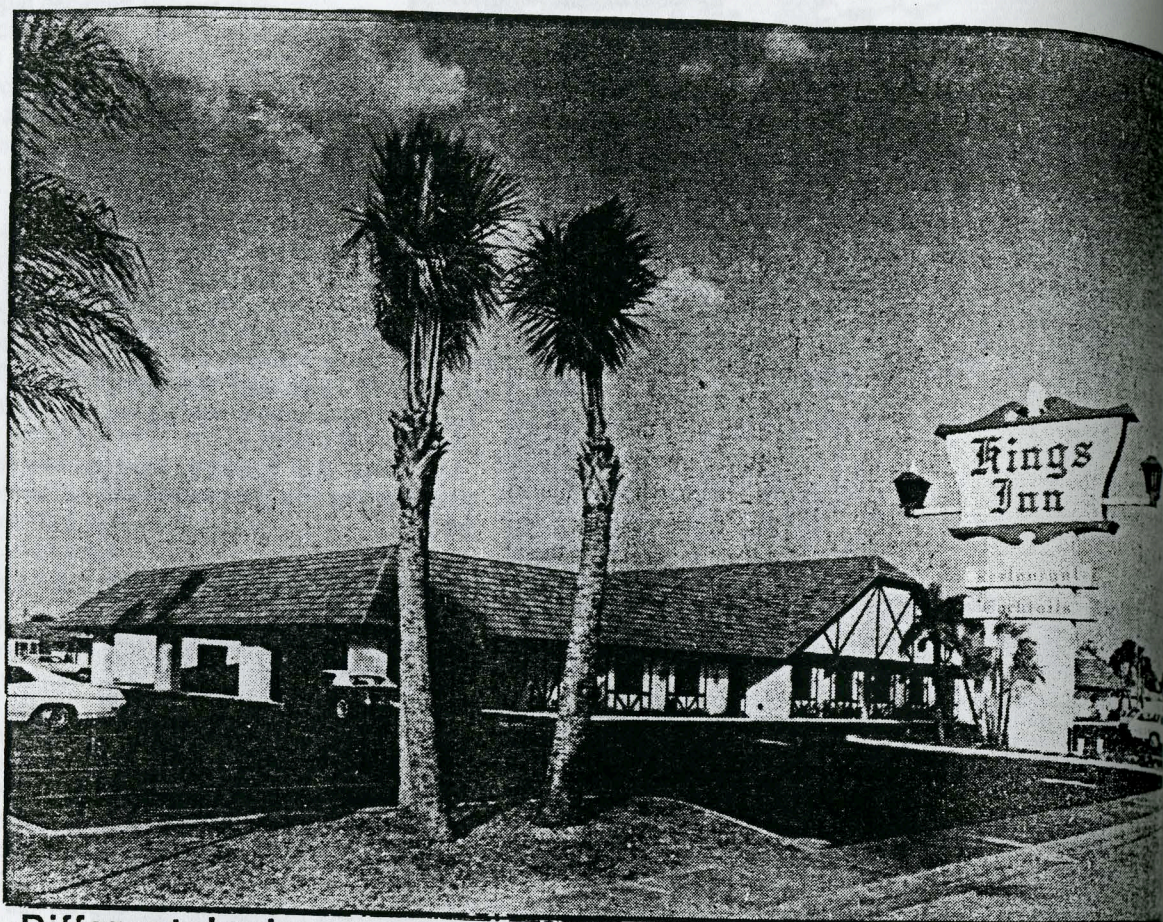
"I was a cheerleader in high school and played on the girls basketball team.

"I graduated from Cornell University with a degree in home economics and taught in a high school in Peekskill, N.Y. It was there I met my husband George Peterson who was teaching at the same school. We were married in 1942 and both taught school more than 25 years. He was head track and basketball coach and I would teach in the daytime and at night would travel with the cheerleaders to all the games. So George and I were together during our teaching careers.



Eleanor Peterson, an early resident of Sun City Center, prepares to travel to a Western barbecue by golf cart.

A piece of history.



Different look

In 1972, after the Kings Inn in Sun City Center was rebuilt following a fire, it looked like this. Subsequently the name was changed to Sun City Center Inn.

Inn No Longer Kings

One of the first buildings erected by the Del Webb Corporation in Sun City, Ariz., and Sun City Center was a motel-restaurant complex which they named the Kings Inn. The one in Sun City Center, built in 1965, burned to the ground in 1971. It was reconstructed, and this is how it appeared at its opening in November of 1972. It is now the Sun City Center Inn.

Ben Sutton, who operates the Golf School for Seniors at Sun City Center tells an interesting story about the two Kings Inns. While he was visiting the one in Sun City, Ariz. in 1972 he happened to notice two carved wood lions, just like the ones he had seen in Sun City Center. Looking at them closely, he observed that they had a smoky smell. Sure enough, upon inquiring he found out that after the fire these lions had been moved to Arizona.

A piece of history...

Caretaker Remembers When Swans Came



GLENN SWEENEY

By Aleta Jonie Maschek

There is no historical connection between Sun City on U.S. 41, south of Ruskin, and Del Webb's Sun City Center.

It was not until 1960 that Sun City Center was created, whereas Sun City began in the late 1800s.

One of the first pioneers in Sun City Center was Glenn Sweeney, who because of an ad in the May 1962 Ladies Home Journal, found Sun City Center. Today in Sun City Center one relates Sweeney to swans, since he has been feeding the swans on Swan Lake since 1964.

As we sat in the lakefront home that Sweeney purchased in 1962, he relates.

"Instead of taking a vacation to Arizona, my wife Bertha and I followed the Ladies Home Journal ad and found Sun City Center."

The Sweeneys lived in Bay Mills, Mich., where Sweeney was born in 1903.

Sweeney's only brother, Myles, is 5 years younger than he. He remembers them going to Sunday School each Sunday. Their mother

taught in the Baptist church.

"The streets were dirt in those days, with boards over ditches. Cars were few, mostly horse and buggys. We lived in the city and played in the streets. We often played hockey with cans and sticks, and as all kids do, we played hide n' seek, and kick the can.

"We walked to school each day because our house was close to the school. I'member Jack Anderson and myself graduated from the eighth grade while in kindergarten. Now that is unusual. We had been acting and cutting up as little kids, so the teacher made us go to kindergarten and stay for two days, one of which we graduated since it was the last day of school.

"Father, Vern Sweeney, was a brakeman on the Grand Rapids Railroad and our mother, Lillian Meyer Sweeney, worked for the YMCA until her retirement. We didn't get to go on the railroad often with our father, and with mother working too, we had our chores to do.

"My brother Myles and his wife Jean have lived here in Sun City

Center for the past four years. And would you believe they were able to buy the house next door to mine?

"When I was 14 I had my own paper route. I later worked for the Grand Rapids Press newspaper, and have worked in construction. I even dug ditches.

"My first car was a second-hand Nash. I remember it well — a 1928 roadster for which I paid \$100 in installments of \$5 a month.

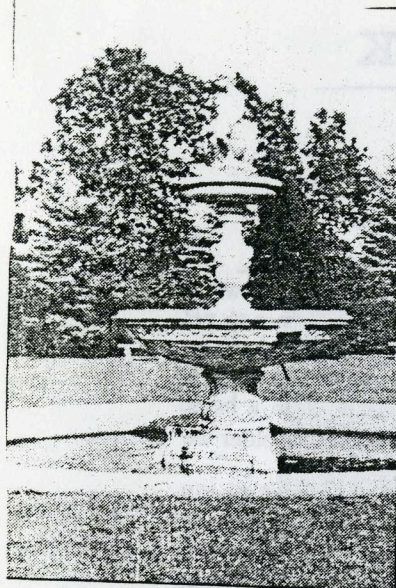
"From 1919 to 1921 I was in the U.S. Army. I enlisted after World War I.

"When I came out of the Army I worked up to foreman of a company called Steele Case Manufacture. We made office furniture. I retired in 1963 from this company, but bought my home in Sun City Center in 1962.

"When we bought in Sun City Center, they were just building the homes which were selling for \$12,500 with \$2,000 more for lakefront.

"Beach Boulevard is one block long and there were no houses here in 1962 but six were under construction. Construction was held up

See HISTORY.



This photo shows the fountain found in the Italian garden at the Mortmar estate.

"After we retired to Sun City Center we played golf together. Our first residence was a cottage on Council Drive. They were lovely and completely furnished down to the napkins for the table. After we looked over the available houses we settled for one with all the pine trees in back of it, as it reminded us of New York.

"The golf course was only nine holes then, but complete. The sixth green was not ready so a temporary green was used. The sand traps were horrendous and women hit from the front of the men's tees.

"I saw my first golf cart in the area in the fall of 1963. A woman was driving it on the course and introduced herself as Lois Chapell. As she approached she asked if I was Mrs. Peterson and I remarked that I was but I was probably not the one she was looking for. Her reply was, 'You're a golfer aren't you?' My answer was an avid one.

"It developed into the starting of a Women's Golf Association. In 1965-1966 the second nine was completed and I was elected president of the Women's Golf Association. I remember at the opening ceremonies breaking a bottle of champagne over the ball washer. It was a great feeling to be showered with champagne.

"The course seemed great until you arrived at hole 14, the water hole, and one of my memories is Mary Wells protesting that 'we would never get over the water,' and my answer to this was, 'You can get over it with a putter.' Mary demanded that I prove that statement. My putter was flat sided and had too long of a shaft, but I'm proud to

say that miracles do happen, I got over that waterway.

"A drainage ditch crossed fairways 13 and 15. Tall weeds, grass, and water made it a formidable hazard and this was a real challenge.

"In the early days, when we had only the first nine, there were three of us couples who would play until lunch, and then take turns stopping at our house, Don Mole's or Frank Kane's homes for lunch.

"When I was president, Ruth Clark was vice president and Edith Nickson was secretary and treasurer. Our first invitational we invited Apollo Beach and what a disaster.

"A sudden downpour came and all of our guests went to various homes along the greens and we put their clothes in our clothes dryers to dry. After the clothes dried we went to the home of Mary Johnson for lunch.

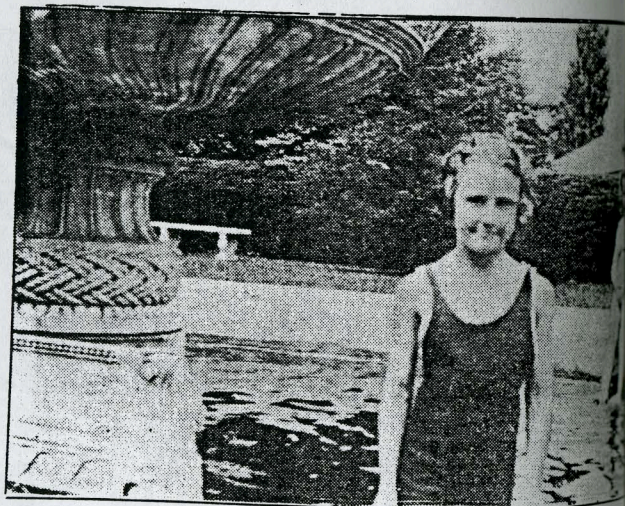
"One of the most outstanding memories was the invitational we had with a circus theme, with committee members in clown outfits, name tags in the shape of circus animals. Over the years many changes have been made with new developers and much growth. When Caloosa Course came into being we lost some of our favorite members. I have shot a hole-in-one, and I still pay my yearly membership and play whenever I can."

George Peterson passed away in 1975 but Eleanor has continued to play golf.

As we were leaving the home of this lovely 87-year-old golfer, we asked her handicap, and was told it was 17 when she first started to play, but now, "I hate to tell you."



This 1896 photo shows Mary Ann Mullen Sch... mother of Eleanor Charlotte Peterson.



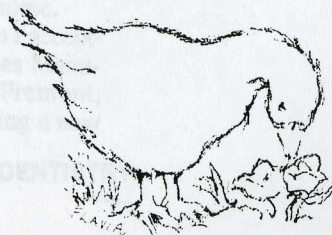
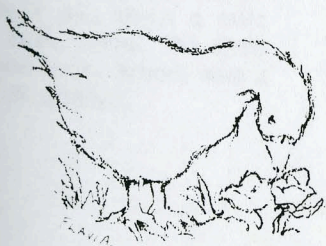
Eleanor Charlotte Wilson and a companion cool off at Venetian fountain found in the Italian garden Mortmar estate in this 1916 photo.



History



This 1908 studio portrait shows Glenn Sweeney at age 5 and his brother, Myles at six months.



History

because it was decided to raise the roofs on these houses 18 inches.

"Each house had a corporation style cement roof, but by getting a permit to raise them 18 inches, shingles could be put on when it was time to replace them. I thought these co-op houses looked like concentration camp houses. They were all the same with heat pumps on the roof. When they started building the conventional style homes they put the heat pumps on the ground.

"Lester Peters, Lester Potters and Ernie Apple and I played golf together. Our greens fees were 95 cents. We had to walk since there were no golf carts. The North 9 course was the only course here at that time.

"Lester and Florence Peters, Lester and Nina Potters, Ernie and Lila Apple, and myself and wife Bertha, all come from Michigan. All of us ran around together for years. We ate a lot of pie and drank coffee at the Coffee Cup in Ruskin, but I remember they had a steak better than Berns Steak House in Tampa and it only cost \$1.50.

"We would scout for places to eat. One of our favorite was in Tampa at the Picadilly. We always ate at noon because you could get a lot more food for your money. We seldom went out at night, but stayed home and played cards.

"It was 1964 when John Cook brought down a pair of swans from Chicago. He purchased them at a nursery up there. We also had some wood ducks and mallards on what is now called Swan Lake.

"When we first moved into our house on the lake it was but a reservoir for the golf course. Water was pumped into it from wells and when it became warm it would then be pumped onto the golf course.



"After the swans came, the lake was soon called Swan Lake, and the homes in this cooperative took care of the swans. We were the only homes on the lake, and to this day we still have the co-op with 24 houses in it. Out of the original owners only Arden Burgett, Evelyn Clatterbuck, Mary Wells and myself are left.

"The original swans had a daughter and then the next year we purchased a mate for her from Tampa, but she fought him each day, so we swapped her for another. She felt the island and lake were hers and we brought in a stranger.

"I have no children and my wife passed on in 1976 and I have plenty to do in feeding the swans. But I still do ballroom dancing. I have a partner, Alma Axtmann, whom I have danced with for the past three years."

Sweeney is a busy person. Looking at his screened lakeside porch one can see two large screens with bread drying and row after row of gallon jugs filled with swan feed. He uses 60 loaves of bread a month. It cost about \$360 a year for the grain and bread mix.

He built a grinder out of an old ice crusher and attached a large tomato can on top to feed the dried bread through, which passes into an elbow piece of gutter into a 5 gallon pail.

Drying the bread keeps it from mildewing when bottled in the grain mixture. Bread is purchased at a day-old thrift store once a month.

All the birds in the lake are still taken care of by Sweeney. People in the cooperative (only the homes on Beach Boulevard) pay for the upkeep and feed of the swans. The island is still cared for by the co-op, too. It owns the shed which houses the tools for the up-keep of the island.

Glenn Sweeney is the current president of the co-op; Elmor Elliott is treasurer; Bud Fuller, secretary; and Paul Rice, handyman. They meet several times a year or when a situation comes up that needs attention, said Sweeney.



Dental Education Proves Lifetime Challenge For Sun City Center Resident

Dental education and clinical practice have provided a lifetime of challenge for Dr. Floyd A. Peyton.

He was so determined to be successful in his chosen field that he would not allow a medical handicap to hold him back.

In fact, he far surpassed the accomplishments of most of his peers by obtaining national and international recognition in his teaching and research efforts in biomaterials to the clinical practice of dentistry.

Dr. Peyton has been a resident of Sun City Center since 1970. He established a place in the history of dentistry with his many books, booklets, research and teachings before he retired. Many of these materials are still being used in the colleges of dentistry around the world.

"I arrived by home delivery, Feb. 2, 1905. It was Groundhog Day in southern Indiana. I am under the sign of Aquarius the water bearer. This sign became loud and clear as over the years it has continued to say, 'You are fortunate to have such good luck. Keep on with your good work and you will succeed in what you undertake.'

"I was the only child born to Birde and Avery Peyton and having no brothers or sisters perhaps was the basis for some degree of my shyness as a child and some tendencies toward insecurity.

"Both my mother and father worked hard and long hours to get the most benefits possible from life on the farm. Their working hours were usually from dawn to dusk.

"My first eight years of school were spent in a one room school house, which was about a mile from our farm, called The Crab College Elementary School with a total of 17-20 students.

"I enrolled in Charlestown High School in 1918, which was a few miles from our farm. I drove the horse and buggy to school daily.

"I became ill the second year of high school and had spinal meningitis which later developed osteomyelitis, an infection of the bone. I soon became better using crutches and a leg brace, and went back to school graduating in 1924.

"Because of my health situation, my parents sold our farm and moved to the city of Bloomington, Indiana where I attended the University of Indiana from 1924 to 1928. While there I was a member of Alpha Chi Sigma professional chemistry fraternity."

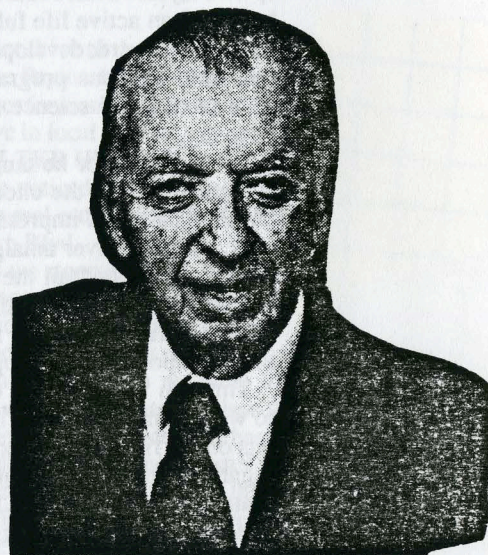
"Graduating from University of Indiana with a bachelor of arts in chemistry, I received a fellowship to the College of Mines, a Michigan College of Mining and Technology."

"In 1930 I began graduate studies at the University of Michigan, obtaining a master of science degree, and later a doctor of science degree.

"It was at the University of Michigan that I met my wife of 60 years, Beatrice. She was a student in my chemistry class, and always sat down front and asked a lot of questions. Finally I one time asked her to have a cup of coffee with me after class, and that is how it all began.

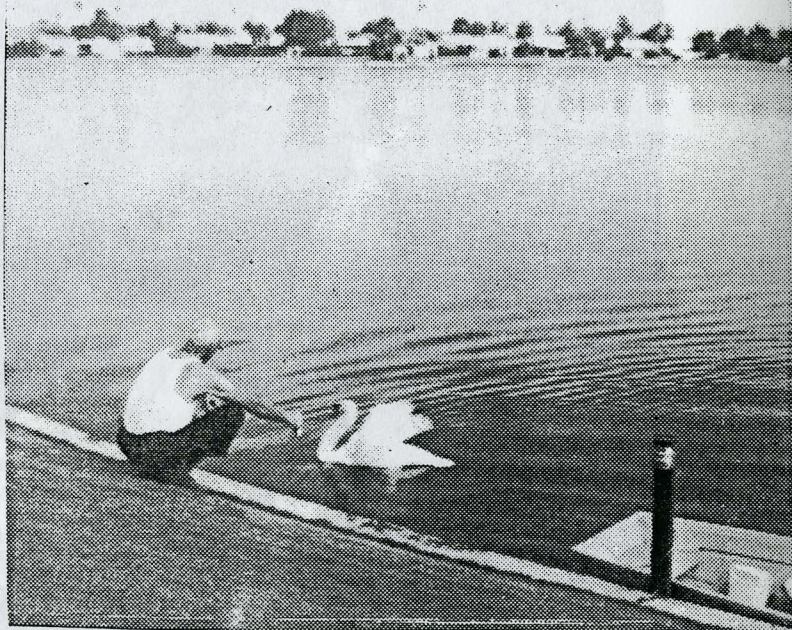
At one of our coffee breaks, Beatrice Stodden asked me who was doing the typing of the thesis that I needed for my graduate work telling me that she could type. We continued to see one another with her doing my typing, and soon I was visiting her family in their home.

"In 1933 after graduation I accepted a position with the Ames Manufacturing Company in Fremont, Ohio, to work on developing a new



Dr. Floyd A. Peyton

When Swans Came



Glenn Sweeney feeds one of the swans that live on Swan Lake, Sun City Center.

"When we first moved into our house on the lake it was but a reservoir for the golf course. Water was pumped into it from wells and when it became warm it would then be pumped onto the golf course."

grain mixture. Bread is purchased at a day-old thrift store once a month.

All the birds in the lake are still taken care of by Sweeney. People in the cooperative (only the homes on Beach Boulevard) pay for the upkeep and feed of the swans. The island is still owned by the cooperative. It owns the island which houses the waste for the upkeep of the island.

Glenn Sweeney is the current president of the Sun City Center. He is 72 years old, a former tuxedo and Paul Price, handyman. They meet several times a year or when a situation comes up that needs attention and Sweeney.

SPOTLIGHT

WITH JONIE MASCHEK

FAY KENNA

We opened the door and spotlighted Fay Kenna, owner of the Lamb and Lion Bookstore in Sun City Center. She was taking time out from her busy day to review one of the new books that had just arrived.

The store has a complete collection of Precious Moments, cards, church supplies, gifts, books, T-shirts, caps and videos.



WALTER HUDSON

One unique service of the store is to wrap each gift, free of charge.

They will celebrate their second anniversary March 29 at 910 N. Pebble Beach Blvd. with door prizes, cookies and punch and coffee.

The assistant manager is Lisa Kenna, daughter-in-law of Col. Ross and Fay Kenna who live in Sun City Center. The bookstore is open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Stop by and tell them hello.

BEA PEYTON

As we cruised down Pebble Beach Boulevard in Sun City Center we saw a lady with a little dog walking along. We stopped and spotlighted Bea Peyton with her min-

iature Pincher, Cobie. Ms. Peyton says she walks Cobie daily but today had him in her arms.

Some of the ladies in the Methodist church, of which she is a member, go out to eat together on weekends and often they go out of town. She spends each Friday putting out the church paper, which takes up part of her time. She also takes her neighbors who

cannot drive to the grocery store.

Ms. Peyton has lived in Sun City Center for many years but is no longer active in local affairs.

WALTER HUDSON

We noticed that Paul B. Dickman has a real estate office at 108 Pebble Beach Blvd.

As we stopped to talk with Walter Hudson, whose name is on the door of its licensed Real Estate Broker, we found that he was at the airport, with his own plane. So we went to the airport and spotlighted Hudson there.

The Sun City Center office has seven employees and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. They have been in this location for one year and will give you the same service as they have in Ruskin since 1923, when they first opened their real estate office.

Hudson has been with the organization for 25 years. If you so desire, your property can be shown to you by plane.



Spotlight

JONIE MASCHEK PHOTO

Fay Kenna, owner of the Lamb and Lion Bookstore in Sun City Center, took a moment to visit with Jonie Maschek who stopped in for her bi-monthly Spotlight feature.



BEA PEYTON

Dentistry

dental cement. Beatrice Stodden stayed behind and finished her semester at college, but on Jan. 1, 1934, we were married at Ann Arbor, Mich. and moved to Fremont, Ohio together. I now had more money to live on as the company had given me a \$25 raise for developing a new dental cement."

Dr. Peyton then returned to the University of Michigan where he spent 37 years before retirement. He has lived an active life full of challenge and reward; developing an active and vigorous program in the field of material science related to dentistry.

As an instructor he taught many students to learn the chemical and physical nature of impression materials, cement, silver amalgam, gold alloys, plastic and all the materials needed for dental practice which were described in terms related to their composition and properties.

Through the years he continued to write numerous books and booklets on his findings and experiments regarding the effect of variations of materials. Today one of his books is now in its ninth edition.

As a member of Fulbright Lecturers, he was sent around the world from Egypt to Brazil gaining international fame in his field.

Dr. Peyton was appointed professor emeritus of dentistry upon his retirement.

After retirement Dr. Peyton traveled to Gainesville to conduct classes and lectures for several years.

The Peytons have two sons, Terry and Keith. Dr. Peyton spent time with his sons when they were in the Boy Scouts. He received the Boy Scout Silver Beaver Award for serving as president of the council for years. Son Terry received the Eagle Award and son Keith a Life Scout Award.

A true pioneer, Dr. Peyton played a major role in the development of the field of dental materials, both as a teacher and a researcher. Under his guidance the graduate program at the University of Michigan's Dental Materials Program has the reputation as the most respected program of its kind in the world.



Dr. Floyd A. Peyton is shown here with his wife Beatrice. Dr. Peyton, who has dedicated his life to dentistry research, now lives in Sun City Center.

His lifetime awards are so numerous we could never address them all. He is a lifetime member of American Dental Association, with many Fulbright awards, and listed in American Men of Science.

Dr. Peyton is now confined to his home due to illness but is often visited by friends and fellow Kiwanis members, sons and grandchildren.

We would be remiss if we did not recognize Beatrice, his wife of 60 years for her support, her love and sharing which has had an everlasting effect on her husband's career.

Beatrice Peyton has been very active in Sun City Center before her husband's illness. She served as a captain of one of the Sun City Center Emergency Squad for years.

A piece of history...

Roberts Family Reaches Back

To Indians

Aleta Jonie Maschek

We traveled this week to the home of Barry Roberts whose family has been in Florida since 1835.

"Great grandfather 'Cherokee Bill,' as he was known, fought in the Seminole Indian War of 1835. His son was William James Roberts, who was my grandfather. He was born around 1854. His son William Joshua Roberts born in 1880 was my father," related Roberts.

"The day that great-grandpa Cherokee Bill was married in Georgia, he got into an argument with the judge and ripped the ceiling board off in the courthouse and the people ran him out of town. He hitched his oxen to a cart and went south with his bride and all their belongings. After three days on the trail, the judge who married them came by on a horse and passed them shouting 'Bill, they kicked me out of town, too.'

Barry Roberts relates this story to us as he remembers his grandfather telling it to him when he was a boy.

"Their first homestead in Florida was on the Suwannee River, where they stayed awhile then traveled southwest to Polk City to a settlement called Fox Town. Their next move was north of Polk City to a settlement called Green Pond and that is where they stayed.

"My father, William Joshua Roberts, married a neighborhood girl Eleanor Raulerson. After they married they lived upstairs in a log house. Upstairs in that log house is where I was born.

"When I was 3-years-old we moved into a barn that was just built on 10 acres on the same ranch. Daddy converted the barn into a house for us. I had three brothers and two sisters.



Mildred and Barry Roberts are shown on their wedding day in 1938.

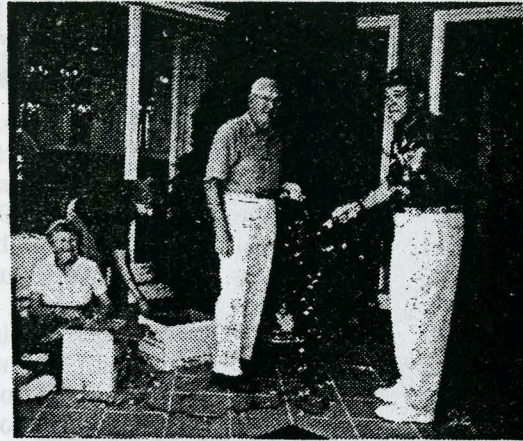
SPOTLIGHT

WITH JONIE MASCHEK

PHOTOS BY JONIE MASCHEK
Pictured below is Marge Spiller, Alice Edgerton, Joe Bree and Jim Spiller.

The CourtYards is the new place on the block of the retirement community, Sun City Center. Jan. 26 marks their first anniversary.

As we flashed "Spotlight" on the lobby of this leisure way of life, we caught Marge Spiller and Alice Edgerton packing up Christmas ornaments, as Joe Bree and Jim Spiller were undressing the Christmas tree.



The clubhouse is beautiful and there is a choice of three dining areas. They have a private heated pool, reading room, 24-hour emergency call system, plus scheduled transportation and all the extras of a secure neighborhood.

The executive director is John Hagan and the activity coordinator is Jaycee Johnson.

We opened the door to a ceramic class in Sun City Center where Pat Betz from Tampa is the instructor.



Inside we found award-winning Shirley L. Johnson creating a lighthouse. As we put the spotlight on her she told us that her awards have numbered more than a dozen first place ribbons.

Ms. Johnson grew up as an only child in her home

Shirley L. Johnson

state of Illinois. She retired as a research mental tech at John Hopkins and came to Sun City Center about five years ago because she was happy with the weather.

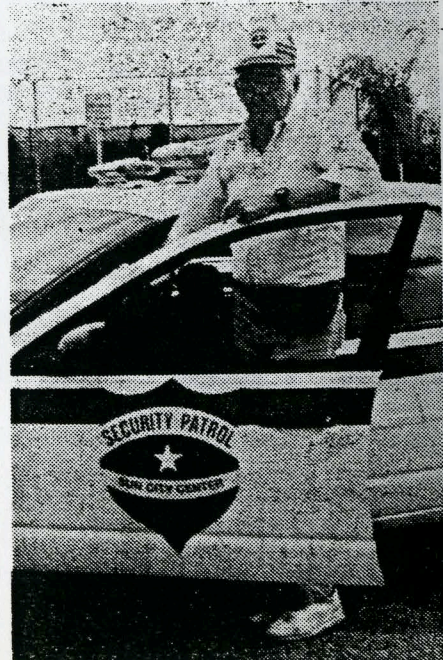
Flashing a spotlight on Sun City Center's Security Patrol was rewarding as Wayne Juhlin was on duty for his three-hour patrol. His wife, Jacqueline, usually accompanies him, but today he was riding alone.

This is a totally volunteer organization with five fully-equipped blue/white cars and a golf cart with radar equipment. They do not give tickets; just a friendly wave of the hand and those exceeding safety limits will slow down.

Their communication system is sophisticated, connecting all cars with each other and to base operations, with available contact to sheriff, emergency squad and fire departments.

The patrol is funded by its residents, clubs, organizations and business communities exclusively.

Bob James is president; Eldon Green, chief of operations and Gigi Giordano, office manager.



Wayne Juhlin

sneak into her room and jump up and down on it. It would completely cover us up it was so fluffy. Of course we received a few paddlings for doing this.

"Our father had 7 brothers and 5 sisters. Daddy would tell us stories of when he was young and one I remember is the boys would dress to go to church. They would then have a race to saddle their horses and race to church to see which one could get to church first. Of course that is where all the girls in the area were.

"Grandpa would tell us about great-grandpa Cherokee Bill saying they didn't hurt the friendly Indians. The friendly ones would come by dragging a deer that they had butchered. It would be so dirty that we couldn't eat it. It was only fed to the dogs. The Indians, in turn, would want corn shucked and shelled in their pail. He quit shelling before the pail was filled and the Indians got mad and took their venison back, until they were given some potatoes, which made them friends again.

"I was 7-years-old when I started to school in 1921. Our teacher in the one-room schoolhouse was law and order. She was a large woman and weighed not a pound under 250. The parents had given her the authority to spank the children if they needed it. We would also get a spanking when we got home. If she couldn't handle the boys, she would sit on them. We didn't want that to happen so it wasn't often we got in trouble with her.

"Her name was Birdie Smith. She taught through the eighth grade and kept all classes separate and spent time with each group. She was a very efficient woman.

"She would give us 15 minutes to go to the outdoor bathrooms. We had one for the boys and one for the girls. We had to get a drink of water in that 15 minutes too. There were 33 in that school.

"We had one hour for lunch in which we ate our lunch fast and then played. We would play leap frog, hide-n'-seek and play ball.

"We had a big wood stove and I remember someone put a 22 bullet in it. It made a big blast, but all it did to the stove was to put a crack in it.

"When I was 14, I received my first pair of shoes. They were T-strap sandals we had ordered from Sears Roebuck. I remember when I put on those shoes I felt 7 feet tall and floating on air. Those shoes only lasted six months. I have been told that I did own a pair of shoes when I was six months old, but the sandals were the first that I can remember.

"My father left the farm when I was 15 and took a job doing public work. I then ran the farm raising all types of vegetables. We raised rice but I remember the birds would eat it faster than it would come up. We had peanuts and many peanut boiling parties. We also raised sugar cane. There would be sugar cane grinding parties and wood sawing parties. All the neighborhood would get together for these events and we would make a party out of it, with everyone eating together.

"When I was 16 I had made enough money to buy a pair of shoes. They were of monkey skin and cost \$1.25. I wore them three years before they wore out.

"We had a lot of parties, square dancing and box suppers where the girls would put their names in their boxes and the boys would bid on them. The money would go to the school. We also would play spin-the-bottle and post office. When we were square dancing the fiddle player would quit at midnight, if it was Saturday night because he would not play on Sunday.

"I quit school when I was 17 and went into public work, scraping turpentine. I worked for 75 cents a day from sunup to sundown. I walked four miles with a jug of water and my lunch bucket. I was sick for awhile and never went back to this job, but I have never been fired from a job.

"I was working in Adams Packing Company in Auburndale when I met my wife. My two brothers worked with her father and I would drive my car over to her house to wait for them. The first time I saw her she was working in the front yard. I think she was out there to look at me sitting in the car, because there was a fine rain and I know she wasn't working in the

rain. Her name was Mildred Bolender.

"We courted about six months before we married. We had a wedding at the home of her parents."

Mildred relates, "I had a long white satin dress. My mother made it. We were married on a Wednesday at 8 o'clock by the Rev. Overstreet, a good friend of mine.

"We went back to Rockledge after the wedding," Barry continues, "in my Model-A Ford. We grew strawberries there for a while and built a new home. One of our girls was born there.

"A man in a Chevrolet passed by one day looking for me. He had been told that I was a cowboy and could run his ranch in Polk County. We sold our house in Rockledge and moved to a new home on the ranch, where I stayed for two and a half years, until the ranch was sold.

"World War II came along and my boss got me deferred and he bought another ranch of 11,000 acres in Wimauma and sent us there.

"I recall every bayhead in that

acreage had pots, jugs, bricks, old sugar sacks where there had been a moonshine still. One of the stories told about the moonshine in those days was the one of the boy getting caught with 5 gallons of shine under his bed and his mother went to court telling the judge that the boy had to bath in alcohol and that it took 5 gallons of shine to take a bath, the judge dropped the charges.

"The 11,000 acre ranch was sold. We then moved to the "Little Manatee Ranch, which is now Sun City Center.

I asked Barry Roberts, who owned the ranches he worked at. He replied, "I worked for a company called 'Three C-Cattle Company'."

"Our house on the Little Manatee Ranch was about where Sun City Center Hospital stands today.

"We had 12,000 acres there and another 3,000 on U.S. 301 and 6,000 acres in Manatee County. This was owned by C.W. Palmore of Lakeland, who sold to Max Cohen of Bradenton, who sold to Universal Marion Corporation and they sold to Del Webb.

A piece of history...

Roberts Family

"I remember my older brother Ely had a goat and our father was out in the field building a fence and my brother's goat came into the house. Ely knew he would get in trouble because the goat was in the house. He had to think quick to get him out before father returned. He called the dog and told him to get the goat. The dog chased the goat, but killed him. I'll never forget that.

"Grandpa and Grandma Raulerson were the first settlers to move into our community. They moved to Rockledge in the early 1800s, and mother told the story that her father John Raulerson and her mother Rebecca Raulerson were married only 300 yards away from where we lived. They had met at the Primi-

tive Baptist Church called Little Flock.

"The old log house that daddy and mama lived in, where I was born, was the home of Grandma and Grandpa Raulerson.

"The Roberts family came from North Carolina and I remember the story that grandpa told us about marrying our grandmother, Mary Jane Roberts. He pulled fodder until 10 o'clock in the morning, then went to the house and bathed, and put on his best clothes. He walked across the field to grandma's house and got married. Then they came back to his house and he went back to pulling fodder.

"The fodder that he pulled was the dried corn stalk shoots. They would throw them under their arm, twist

them and hang them to dry. Sometimes when they wrapped them there would be spiders and bees nesting in the fodder. I'm sure they got stung often.

"Grandma Roberts had a white bonnet. I thought it was the prettiest thing I ever saw. It was snow white and always starched. She only wore it when she went out or to church.

"Around the house she wore a straw hat and an apron. Her apron always had a pocket. In this pocket she carried her clay pipe and tobacco. When she went to bed she would hang the apron on a home-made chair post.

"I remember an aunt living with us. She had a feather bed that was huge and fluffy. We kids used to



This is what the area now known as Sun City Center looked like before it was bought and developed by Del Webb. Barry Roberts is shown standing in a cattle pen of the Little Manatee Ranch in this undated photo.

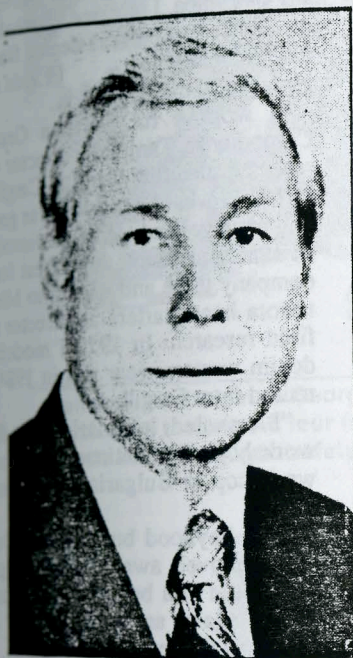
A PIECE OF HISTORY

Coune Recalls Enterprising Escapades

Francis Coune once hunted for wild game on the property now known as Sun City Center.

He never visualized that one day he would retire on the property that was once his hunting grounds.

Coune, is a semi-native, born in



FRANCIS COUNE
Sun City Center resident

Chicago and coming to Florida at the age of 12.

"Both of my parents were from Europe. My mother, Marguerite Schweisthal came from Luxembourg and was raised in Paris. At the age of 20 (1903), mother came to New York to work as a governess for a wealthy French family. My father, Charles Felix Coune was born in Belgium, but lived in England the early days of his life. He was 25 in 1904 when he came to New York. They were married in New York in 1908. Both spoke fluent French.

"From this union were three children, I being the youngest. I had a brother Herbert, born in 1910, the oldest. He was in the Army Reserve in the 1930s and was the lieutenant in charge of building the Myakka State Park. He was a captain in World War II and we lost him then. My sister Daisy Bradshaw, lives in Sun City Center. Both of my parents died in 1969, father at the age of 90 and mother was 85.

"Our childhood was in Chicago. We lived three blocks from school. Mother took us to school the first day but when recess came, I took off and ran back home to my mother.

"I had a great friend next door, who made lead soldiers in his basement. We would make forts out of Lincoln logs and have hours of entertainment. We had to make our own fun.

"When I was 12 we came to Florida and moved to the Morris Bridge Road area. In fact they built the highway around the tree that was in our back yard. We had 40 acres in that area. We had an orange grove and grew Thompson seedless oranges, which we shipped for fresh or-

by Aleta Jonie Maschek

ange juice and concentrate. I milked cows, raised chickens and we farmed our land. Our land ran along the Morris Bridge Road down to Cowhouse Slough, which was a creek, with our nearest neighbor over a half mile away. I raised a heifer and swapped it for a pony.

"In those days there was a 'no-fence' law with cattle and hogs running wild. A neighbor needed help in rounding up his cattle, so I rode my pony in the drive. My pony hated cows, and would run and bite them. When one cow cut out of the herd, my pony went so fast, I landed on the ground right on a boil I had on my right side. It hurt so much, I hated to mount my pony, but I got back on and continued the drive.

"I went to the seventh grade at Flint Lake School at Thonotosassa. Mr. Holmes was the principal and the seventh grade teacher. I rode a bus to this school. It is no longer there, guess it was tore down. I was supposed to go to high school in Plant City, but I caught a ride to Tampa each day with a lawyer named Thomas Alexander, who dropped me off at Hillsborough High School, where I graduated.

"Tampa Electric didn't exist in

those days so we had our own power plant. It was 32 volts and started with gasoline, when it got hot, it would switch to kerosene. To start it we had to crank up a big crank on a fly wheel. I remember once it started faster than normal with the crank flying in the air and crashing into my head. I still have the scar.

"When I was 12-1/2 I met Bob Colhoun, and we were the best of friends. We earned our money trapping. We worked together on all of our money making ventures, such as rigging up carbide lights on our caps, and wading in sink holes and creeks to gig frogs. We sold them for \$1 a dozen to Ritencliff Cafeteria in Tampa. This was great money for us, as farmhands were only getting \$1 a day. We would trap for raccoons, skinning them and treating the hides. We sold them for 75 cents to \$1.50 each. Remember the coonskin coats the college kids wore in the 1930s? We had a good market for these.

—History—

Barry Roberts

Aleta Jonie Maschek

"We had an open range ranch at the Little Manatee Ranch, with piney woods and some swamp area. I remember at S.R. 674 and U.S. 301 we built a cattle guard — a big hole with railroad irons across it to keep the cows from crossing it. S.R. 674 was so quiet in those days

that when a car or truck would cross those cattle guards you could hear it for two miles.

"Our cattle brand was a wavy line. Two men would catch a cow and throw it down and with a heated branding iron we would brand each one in the herd.

"When the Little Manatee Ranch was sold and became Sun City Center I stayed with Webb and Walters and with Gould. When they sold to Commercial Bank in Chicago I still

stayed on. I worked on the Sun City Center golf course for 27 years before retiring.

"In 1978 I built the home we are now living in. We still have some acreage and cattle.

"One of our children died at birth, a boy, William James. The rest of our children live in the area. Margaret Roberts Whatley, Mary Ellen Roberts Taylor, Beverly Roberts Hall and son William Asberry Roberts Jr." That led to the question, "Is your name William Asberry?"

He replied, "No one would know who William Asberry is because I have gone by Barry all my life but that is really not my name. I am William Asberry Roberts Sr.

"Mildred and I will celebrate our 53rd wedding anniversary March 16. On our 50th anniversary we had a church wedding with all of our children and daughter-in-law in the wedding party.

William Joshua Roberts died in 1942 and Eleanor Raulerson Roberts passed away in 1973.



The Roberts family poses in front of a Model-T Ford in this 1922 photo. Shown with their children are William J. and Eleanor Roberts. The children, from left to right, are Ely, Joseph, Miles, Barry and Alice.



Standing, left to right, is George Telford, Francis Coune, and Bill Carroll. Danny Culler is kneeling in front, fourth from the left. All four men were shot down over Switzerland in 1944. Telford was shot by border patrols but was drug to safety by the other three.



Francis Coune's parents, Marguerite and Charles Coune are pictured in this 1918 portrait with son Herbert and daughter Daisy.

Coune Recalls

"When we earned enough money we got better lights for our caps, the kind with a battery pack attached to our belts. We had to skin and dress the frogs before we sold them. I remember someone told Bob and me about a gator nest full of eggs and that no one could get those eggs because the female gator protects them. We decided to swim across the creek and check on those eggs. We somehow got them back across the creek just in the nick of time as the alligator came after us.

"We made a nest of weeds, grass and sand to generate heat to keep the eggs warm enough to hatch. We soon had 18 little alligators, which we took to Boyd's Zoo on Hillsborough and Nebraska Avenue in Tampa. This was a Sunco Service Station with a zoo in the back. We got \$1.50 apiece for our 18 gators.

"Bob and I had enough money to

buy a 1925 Model-T Ford. We were in the ninth or tenth grade. We drove the car everywhere and nobody cared if we had a drivers license or not. Of course we didn't.

"I graduated from high school in 1937 and worked at Byrd's Market on Nebraska Avenue. One half of my wages was groceries. In 1938 I worked for Hillsborough Pharmacy owned by Dr. Chancellor. Then I got a job in Tampa at the Tampa Terrace as an elevator boy, then a bell hop and finally assistant night clerk. In 1940 I joined the 116 Field Artillery National Guard in Tampa. After Pearl Harbor I went to cadet training where I graduated in 1943 at Luke Field, Ariz. and flew P-40s.

"My military career took me to England where I flew combat over West Europe, and was shot down on a mission March 18, 1944, crashing in Switzerland. There were four of us including, George Telford, Bill Carroll and Danny Culler. We went into France one night, and all of us made it but one, George got shot by the border patrol, but we dragged him back across. The French underground took us to Divonne-les Bains, where a doctor took care of George. We escaped there in a truck loaded with cabbage and went to Annecy where we met a major and sergeant from the United States. They led us to the basement of a house and after dark took us to Lyons where a C-47 waited to take us back to England. I then came back to the states, and was discharged at Camp Blanding in 1945.

"I married in 1946 to Eula Blum a native Floridian, and we have three daughters, Coral Jean Kinnear who lives in Texas; Karen Davis and Nancy Sipe, both living in Minnesota. Karen is senior editor for Betty Crocker.

"I went to college at the University of Tampa. I received a bachelor of science and masters degree from the University of Florida in poultry and dairy nutrition.

"I worked for Jackson Grain Company in Tampa as director of research, then they sold to Cargill. In 1962 I went to Argentina as general manager and technical director. In 1968 I had built the largest feed company there and moved to Minnesota headquarters as director of field research. In 1970 I modeled denim western wear and in 1984 retired from Cargill.

"I traveled internationally to workshops and seminars doing one workshop in Bulgaria after retirement.

"My boyhood buddy, Bob Coughlin, moved away from Tampa but would you believe we are together again, as he too retired to Sun City Center."

Eula and Francis Coune are very active in Sun City Center community affairs and belong to the United Community Church. They have three grandchildren.

As I left the comfortable home of the Coune's, Eula was leaving to teach a calligraphy class and Francis had an 11 a.m. tee-off at the golf course.



Francis Coune swapped a heifer for this pony when he was in his teens.

Olympics Deja Vu

By Aleta Jonie Maschek
Wilfred "Sandy" Newell, of Sun City Center, celebrated his 93rd birthday on the opening day of the Olympics in Atlanta. He also celebrated his birthday at the opening day of the Olympics in Rome, 36 years ago.

He was there looking forward to seeing the American boxer, Cassius Clay, win his boxing bout against world opposition.

This year the boxer was the person who would light the torch in Atlanta, but he had changed his name to Muhammad Ali. He was the surprise and inspired choice to light the Olympic Cauldron.

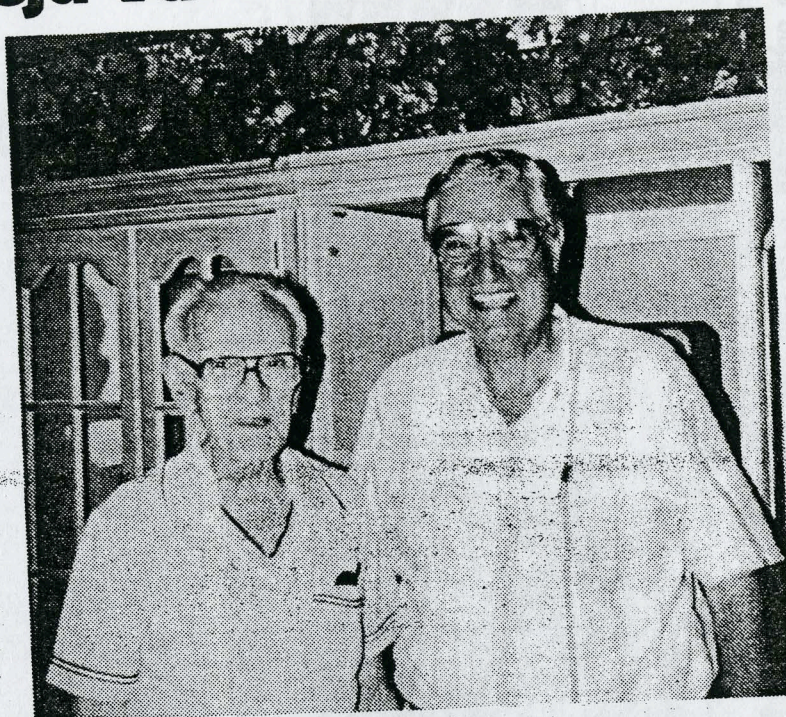
As I sat in the home of Newell, I listened to him who has been endowed with the faculty of understanding and a good intellect. This won him the job of National Director of Travel of the board of the YMCA. It was in this position that he attended the Rome Olympics.

Another coincidence is that while preparing for the trip with 250 high school students from around the United States, he would need help to chaperone them.

While searching for travel arrangements to transport the students, he met someone who could book a ship for them out of New York. He continued the story by saying, "In those days you could not charter a plane for that many people."

"Looking for chaperones, I found a person who was chairman of the National High School Youth Committee. This person was none other than Dr. Phil Lange, who now is also a resident of Sun City Center. It was ironic that Phil and his wife, Irene, lived one and a half blocks from Dorothy and me in New Jersey."

As Newell leaned back in his comfortable chair, he began reminiscing about the friendship he had through the years with the Langes, saying,



Sandy Newell, left, celebrated his 93rd birthday with his son, Jack, of Bloomington Hills, Mich.

"Not only was Phil my right hand while in Europe, but he also took Irene and her sister, Ches, along to help us chaperone."

"The highlight of the Rome Olympics was not the fanfare they have today, only that all the countries marched in. But I missed most of that because one of the students became ill right after we had all 250 of them in the complex and seated on time. I

had to call an ambulance, get her to a hospital, and then we couldn't get a doctor who spoke English, nor could we get in touch with her parents in California. Finally we got an English doctor, who told us that she needed an operation right then for appendicitis. The doctor and I finally signed papers and the operation took place. I made arrangements for her to fly

home as soon as she was released from the hospital. I then had to contact my staff in New York to meet her plane. They handled her flight from New York to California and contacted the parents.

"The chaperones and I divided up into four groups and toured Europe, then met at the ship for transportation back home."

"While serving nine years as National Director of the YMCA, I also attended the Olympics in Holland and Japan."

"The Japan tour was a trip around the world with students and parents."

"All in all, I was employed 55 years with the YMCA."



JULIA SIMPSON

We spotlighted Julia's Florist at 761 Cortaro Drive at the Marketplace in Sun City Center, where they are now celebrating their fifth year.

Six employees were busy helping Julia with her day's orders. They offer customers of Ruskin, Sun City Center and Apollo Beach a daily delivery service.

Julia's husband of many years, Rick, owns the Amoco Station on Pebble Beach Boulevard in Sun City Center. They are both native Floridians.

The busy couple has two children, a boy Jeffrey, and a girl Leigh, who help their parents in the business. At the present time, both children are showing animals at the Strawberry Festival. Leigh has a pig and Jeffrey a steer.

Julia received the Master Designers F.T.D. Award in 1992 and is a Master Florida Manager and former board member of Florida W.C. Florist Association.



Stop by and tell her hello.

* * *

South Bay Hospital has a new name, Columbia South Bay Hospital, but the volunteers are not new. For 10 years Elsie Spielberg has been the receptionist at the front desk and Howard Marx is in transportation.

Elsie works a four-hour shift and handles many jobs, including keeping files for the clergy, discharge files and active files on all patients.

She even delivers the flowers if she can't find someone else to do so.

In transportation Marx gets

wheelchairs and takes patients to various locations.

We spotlighted this busy place and were amazed at all the volunteers in one establishment.

Lisa Anderson, Public Relations Director, tells us that they have more than 250 volunteers. Some work three times a week and others, once a week.

Janet Bank is the volunteer coordinator who does the screening for jobs.

Applications to volunteer may be picked up at the reception desk.

* * *

Much activity was going on at the Community Center in Sun City Center this week, as we fixed our spotlight upon a South Eastern Lawn Bowling Tournament for all the United States.

We found two people playing for the win, Ron Robson, a winter visitor from Canada who now lives in Bradenton, and Pres Lavier, also from Canada, now living in Sarasota.

Both have been avid lawn bowlers for more than 30 years and have won many events in their native Canada.

They have only two more games to go to succeed.



ROBSON AND LAVIER



This photo, taken in Chicago in 1943, shows Paul and Dorothy Robbins on their wedding day.

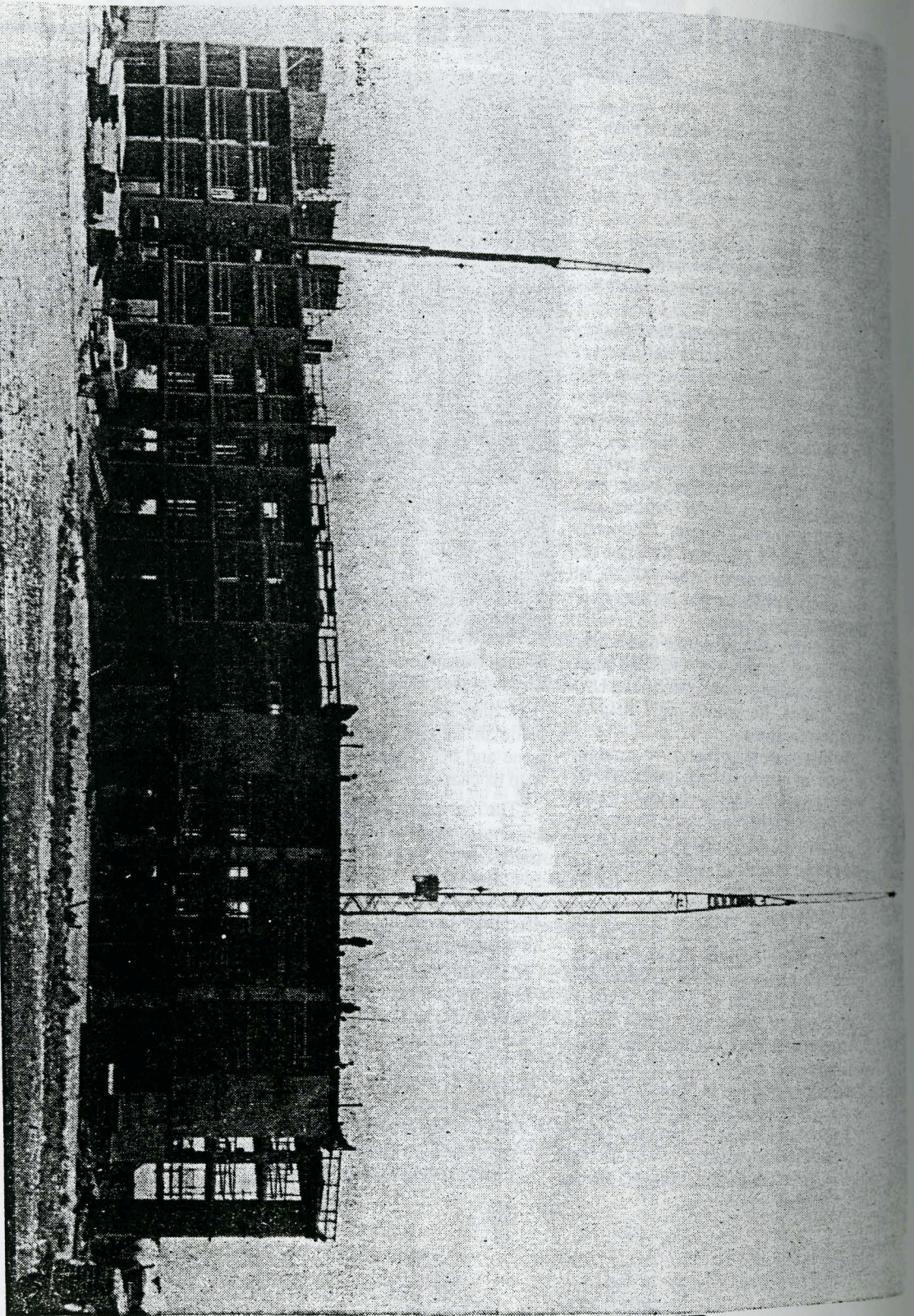


Dr. Paul Robbins, who now resides in Sun City Center, is shown in this photo when he was three months old.

A PIECE OF HISTORY

by Aleta Jonie Maschek

Professor Paul Robbins Recalls Childhood, Career

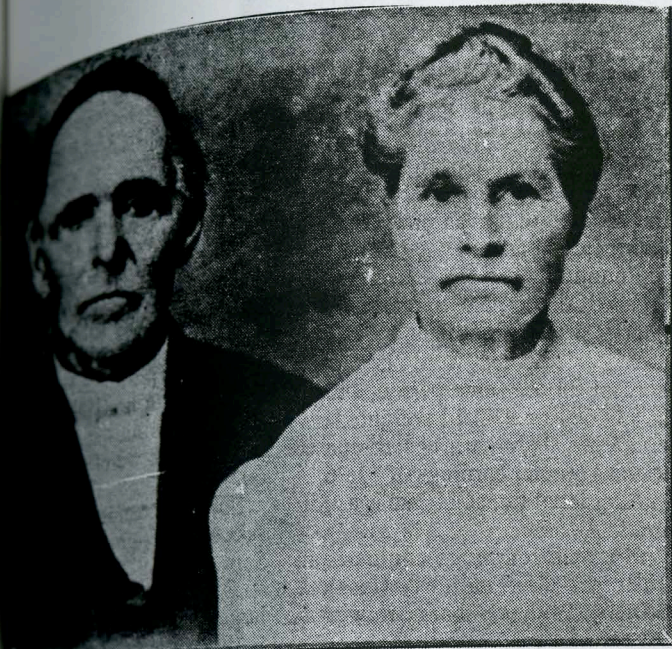


On the rise

The only high rise in the Sun City Center area was under construction when this photo was taken in the 1970s. The retirement development was initially named Trinity

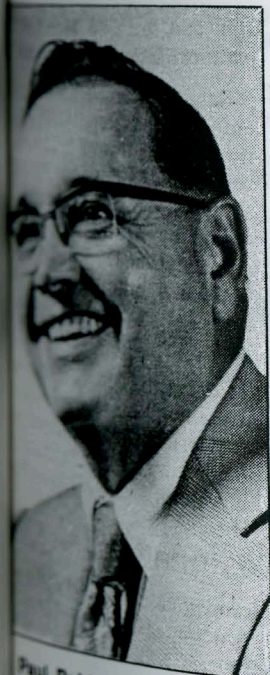
Lakes and with the addition of a second phase, it was renamed Lake Towers.

History



The 1910 photograph shows Reuben and Christine David, the grandparents of Paul Robbins.

Robbins has received numerous awards and citations for his



Paul Robbins served on for many years at Purdue University.

work in agricultural economics. Some of his awards include, Career Award as outstanding Purdue extension specialist; Distinguished Service Award from Indiana Farm Management Association; National Award for excellence in extension teaching from American Agricultural Economics Association; Outstanding Service Award from Indiana Bankers Association; and Distinguished Service Award from Purdue Alumni Association.

In 1983 Robbins and Dorothy moved to Sun City Center. He had an office in the agricultural economics department at Purdue until recently.

The Robbins are very active in the Community Church College and they enjoy, golfing, fishing, reading, traveling and gardening.

There are three boys, Paul who lives in Michigan; Don in Indiana and David in St. Louis. They have six grandchildren, three boys and three girls.



The Robbins family, were all active in Boy Scouts. Shown here are Paul and Dorothy Robbins, and their sons, Paul Jr., Don and Dave. Also pictured is Ching, the family pet.

Our history subject this week from Sun City Center is a versatile person who wears many hats.

Paul Robbins, PhD is serving his fourth term as chancellor of the Community Church College, sponsored by the United Community Church of Sun City Center. Robbins has also taught classes for the college, as well as serving as dean prior to the position he now holds as chancellor.

As we look at Sun City Center today we find it hard to envision that it once was a cattle range.

Land in the area of Sun City Center cost \$2.50 an acre in 1944, by 1991 a 1/4-acre lot cost \$90,000. Between these dates all the pasture lands had been reshaped to streets, houses and golf courses by Del Webb who combined lifetime retirement with community ownership and volunteer management of Sun City Center's facilities and community buildings.

There have been six major developers in this area now under the direction of Al Hoffman's Sun City Center Corp. Hoffman has personally involved himself in community affairs, working to preserve a desired lifestyle at Sun City Center through constantly changing times.

As we sat in the comfortable home of Paul and Dorothy Robbins listening to an anthology of Paul's life, we found that he was born and raised on a farm in Elwood, Ind.

His parental grandparents were Reuben and Christine Davidson.

"My mother Martha Ella Davidson was from Kentucky and my father Amsey Robbins was from Indiana."

Paul Robbins had four brothers and two sisters, but was more or less an only child as he was nine years younger than his next sibling.

"I walked to school the first four years. Our school closed after the fourth grade as there were only five children going to the school. We were transferred to a large school where we had to ride in a wagon pulled by two horses. The wagon was covered and had benches. It looked like an old covered wagon."

Asking why a covered wagon was used for transportation in that year and time, Robbins replies, "The roads were dirt and no automobile could possibly drive through."

"I worked on the farm where we grew corn, soybeans, tomatoes and raised hogs. I sold produce that I raised and soon had enough money to buy my first car, a 1926 Model T."

"In high school I was captain of the basketball team and on the soft-

ball team I was pitcher.

"In 1936 I graduated from high school and entered the University of Kentucky that fall." I asked Robbins why he didn't go to the University of Indiana and he replied, "I had mother's relatives in Kentucky."

"When at the University of Kentucky I received my bachelor of science and master of science degrees, majoring in agricultural economics."

"I was one of the 38 Ag College Boys providing most of the manpower for Borden Dairy Exhibit at the 1940 New York World's Fair."

"I remember Elsie being Borden's star attraction and the queen of the fair. We had a problem when she went to Hollywood to make a movie. Elsie's beautiful boudoir stood empty, and the attendance at Borden's exhibit began to decline. We ag boys decided to move Elsie's husband Elmer from the bullpen to the boudoir. One boy said, 'Do you think this will work? It doesn't look messy enough for a male.' 'He needs some girlie magazines,' said another. 'How about some empty beer bottles strewn around?' 'How about some cigar butts and how about a pair of long-johns to hang

on the dresser drawer?'

"We soon had the boudoir properly redecorated for Elmer. Elmer soon became the great attraction and stood in all his glory in the big four poster bed. We had no worries as Elmer was indeed an immediate sensation. Each day we posted a telegram to Elmer from Elsie in Hollywood, keeping their admiring public informed of the family happenings."

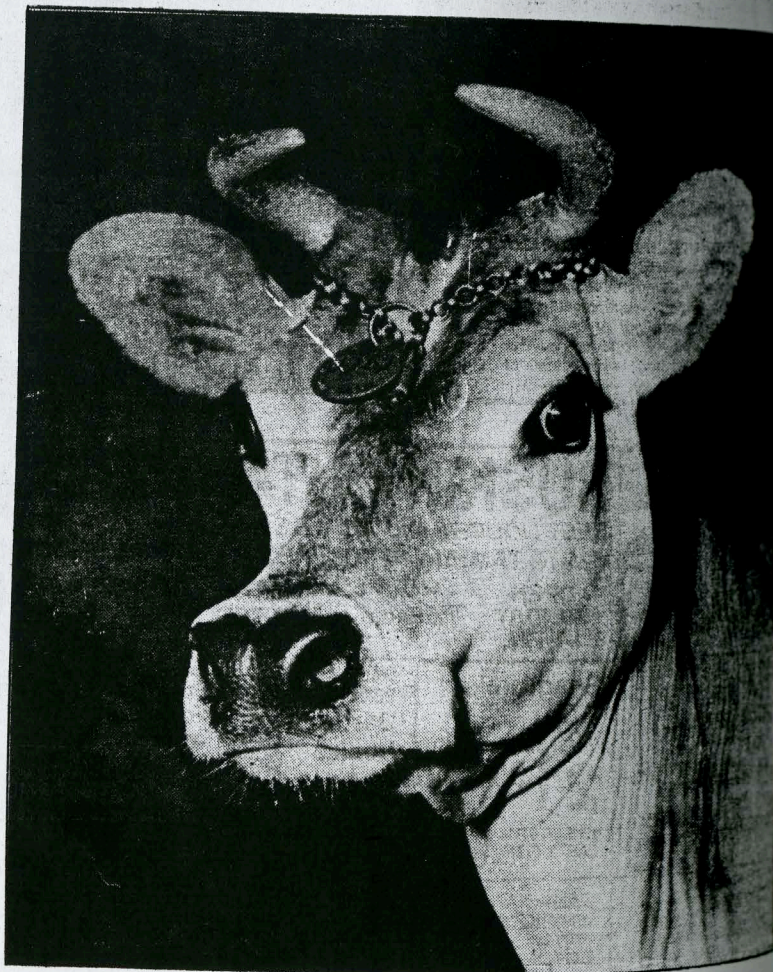
"It was in New York at the World's Fair that I met my wife Dorothy. We courted by subway and married three years later in Chicago. We will be married 50 years this month."

"I served four years as meteorologist in the Air Force in World War II."

"I served as professor of agricultural economics at Purdue University for more than 30 years mostly doing adult teaching."

"Visiting China, USSR, and various other countries in Europe and Asia was one of the highlights of my career. I was a host/leader for agricultural leaders, 'People-to-People Delegations.'"

See HISTORY, Page 4



Borden's Elsie the cow, was the queen of the 1940 World's Fair.



Ed Powers, shown here at age 5, has always had a love for fire stations.

A PIECE OF HISTORY By Jonie Maschek

Ed Powers Organized Community Fire Station

Sun City Center has come a long way since 1944 when an acre of land cost \$2.50. Today a quarter acre could cost more than \$90,000.

Time has changed this marsh and pasture land into paved streets, lakes, golf courses, manicured lawns and business developments.

There is the history of early residents who worked with the developers to create what today is known as "The Greater Sun City Center."

In 1962 when Del Webb, the original developer, had a grand opening, Ed and Polly Powers were there for the event. Polly was a tour guide out of Dayton, Ohio and brought a group of retirees to see the new Florida development called Del Webb's Sun City Center.

"We had lunch at the new inn, which was so beautiful. We were honored guests of Del Webb. We then went to the Town Hall and had a sing-along and the people from Ohio, living at Sun City Center, were invited by Del Webb to be special guests with our group from Dayton," recalls Mrs. Powers.

Ed and Polly Powers arrived in Sun City Center to retire in 1972. It took them another 10 years to decide to come back and live permanently.

Powers was reluctant as there was no fire department. Mrs. Powers, a registered nurse, was disappointed there wasn't a hospital here.

"Many changes in Sun City Center have taken place in the 21 years we have lived here," they said.

Powers was born in 1906 to James Powers and Carrie Sweetman Powers in Dayton, Ohio. He has one sister Mildred Mary who still lives in Dayton.

Since Powers retired as fire chief of the Sun City Center Fire Station, I asked if he had been in the fire department all of his life and his reply, "On no, I really wasn't, I lived by the fire department as a boy and spent all my spare time at the fire station."

"I remember, I would play around the fire pole and when I put finger prints on it, I had to polish it. They would give me a cloth and make me rub the hand prints off the pole.



This 1903 photo shows Ella Blank, mother of Polly Powers.

SPOTLIGHT

WITH JONIE MASCHEK

PHOTOS BY JONIE MASCHEK
Pictured below is Marge Spiller, Alice Edgerton, Joe Bree and Jim Spiller.

The Court Yards is the new place on the block of the retirement community, Sun City Center. Jan. 26 marks their first anniversary.

As we flashed "Spotlight" on the lobby of this leisure way of life, we caught Marge Spiller and Alice Edgerton packing up Christmas or-

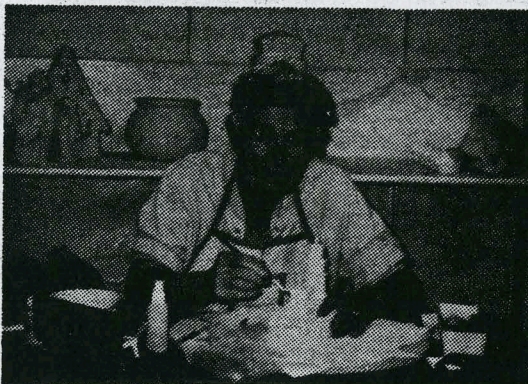


naments, as Joe Bree and Jim Spiller were undressing the Christmas tree.

The clubhouse is beautiful and there is a choice of three dining areas. They have a private heated pool, reading room, 24-hour emergency call system, plus scheduled transportation and all the extras of a secure neighborhood.

The executive director is John Hagan and the activity coordinator is Jaycee Johnson.

We opened the door to a ceramic class in Sun City Center where Pat Betz from Tampa is the instructor.



Inside we found award-winning Shirley L. Johnson creating a lighthouse. As we put the spotlight on her she told us that her awards have numbered more than a dozen first place ribbons.

Ms. Johnson grew up as an only child in her home

Shirley L. Johnson

state of Illinois. She retired as a research mental tech at John Hopkins and came to Sun City Center about five years ago because she was happy with the weather.

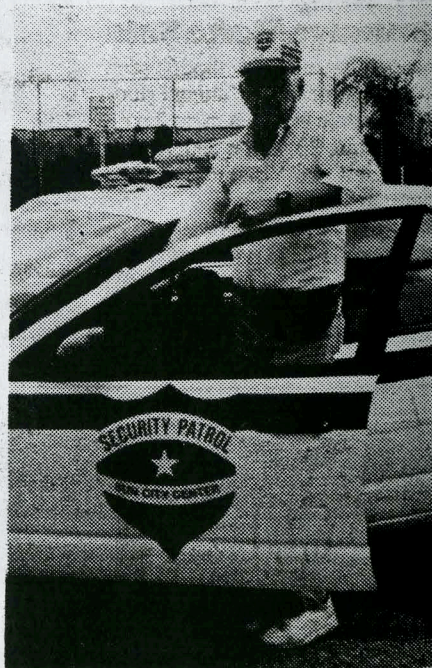
Flashing a spotlight on Sun City Center's Security Patrol was rewarding as Wayne Juhlin was on duty for his three-hour patrol. His wife, Jacqueline, usually accompanies him, but today he was riding alone.

This is a totally volunteer organization with five fully-equipped blue/white cars and a golf cart with radar equipment. They do not give tickets; just a friendly wave of the hand and those exceeding safety limits will slow down.

Their communication system is sophisticated, connecting all cars with each other and to base operations, with available contact to sheriff, emergency squad and fire departments.

The patrol is funded by its residents, clubs, organizations and business communities exclusively.

Bob James is president; Eldon Green, chief of operations and Gigi Giordano, office manager.



Wayne Juhlin



Polly Powers is shown in this 1912 photo.



Far left in this early 1900s photo is Ella Blank, mother of Polly Powers.

"When I was young I walked to school or rode the street car. I would come home for lunch. In the evenings the boys in the neighborhood would play ball together. My early years of schooling were in a one room school from first to eighth grade.

"In the summertime I would work on a farm and raise beets and onions. We would sell them at the Farmer's Market three days a week.

"Our father never took a vacation, but on weekends I would go with him to the soldier's home for concerts.

"I was in the ROTC in high school and graduated as second lieutenant. I then took a correspondence course and became a first lieutenant.

"I married Eloise Kuping in 1929 and had three children, James Edward, who is now a vice president of a metal company; Thomas Henry, who is now a doctor; and Constance Lee Powers Hackett who is a registered nurse.

"I served in World War II as Chief Signal Officer, in Washington, D.C. traveling all over the U.S.A. but never overseas.

"After graduating from the University of Dayton, with a degree in business administration, I worked at a large retail store in Dayton. Twenty-six years for Elder and Johnson and 25 years as its vice president.

"In 1951 my wife Eloise died and I was alone with the three children.

"In 1952 I met Polly at a dentist office when I was getting some teeth pulled. She was the nurse in charge.

"Polly had three children also and together we now had a family of six children. We had to make our house bigger, by adding extra bedrooms.

Polly has two daughters Jane Ruth and Barbara Whitehair, both live in Sun City Center and a son Don Tschudi, who is an engineer in Dayton, Ohio.

"I retired in 1962 and 10 years later we moved here. The fire department that wasn't here, now exists and I have retired as fire chief of Sun City Center.

"The hospital that wasn't here, exists today and Polly served as the second president of the RN Club of Sun City Center.

"Polly also started a blood pressure program in Sun City Center back in the 70s.

"Times have changed. We used to know everyone who bought in this area. We live on one of the first

streets built in Sun City Center. We are the second owners of this property. We have lived in this same house 21 years and are the only 'old timers' left on this street.

The Hi-Neighbor Club was great, where you met and greeted all the residents. Such togetherness does not exist today in these changing times. We remember the days when the whole neighborhood would walk together to functions and take evening walks. There were about 3,000 people when we moved here.

"I was in the Men's Chorus for years, Polly was a great shuffleboard player and I once was an avid lawn bowler. I still usher at the Prince of Peace Catholic Church."

Powers is well-known among Sun City Center residents as the organizer of this community's first fire department which now bears his name.

When Sundance, east of Sun City Center saw a need for a fire department of its own, it was Powers who organized it, and it today is known as Sun City Center Station No. 2.

The man who was vice president



Ed and Polly Powers of Sun City Center are shown in this recent photo.

of a retail store for many years of his life spent his retirement years fulfilling his life-time dreams of becoming a fireman.

Last week Feb. 27 Powers was again honored by his fellow citizens of Sun City Center.

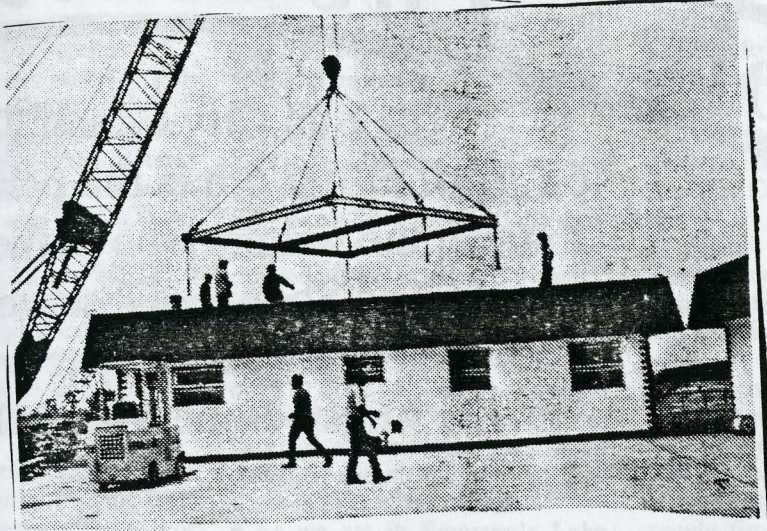
As we left the home of Ed and Polly Powers we knew we had found a couple that was part of the history of Sun City Center.



Grandma Mary Sweetman and a young Ed Powers feed the chickens in this 1909 photo.

By Aleta Jonie Maschek

Photographer Recalls Kings Point Construction



It was after Piehl left Bradenton and moved to Tampa that he started working at Kings Point and taking photographs of the first apartment buildings there. Then came the pictures of the different stages of construction, and it's these photographs that more or less tell the story of Kings Point.

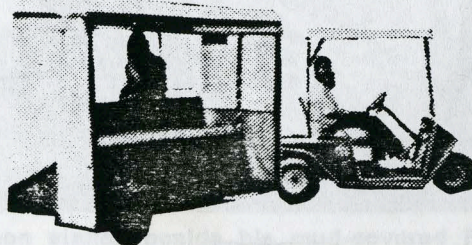
Piehl said, "The contractors had a huge crane that lifted the completed homes and put them on the already built foundation. The roofs on these homes were flat and called a French Mansard roof. The interior of the homes couldn't be finished beforehand because the homes would be too heavy for the crane to lift. These homes sold for approximately \$16,000 and many were located on the south side of Kings Point."

Piehl remembers model homes lining the right side of S.R. 674. Potential buyers were driven in a golf cart to the construction site and shown all the model homes. No one would interrupt the tour until the buyers arrived at the last model home where they were greeted by the sales staff.

Piehl noted, "Kings Point has certainly grown from the 220 completed units I saw in 1978 to the major retirement center it is today."



Berniece and Stanley Piehl after arriving in Ruskin from Washington. Some of Piehl's photography skills are chronicled on this page



Photographer Recalls Kings Point Construction

JANUARY 4, 1995



Potential buyers were driven around the construction site and shown all the model homes. After the tour, they were taken back to the administration building.

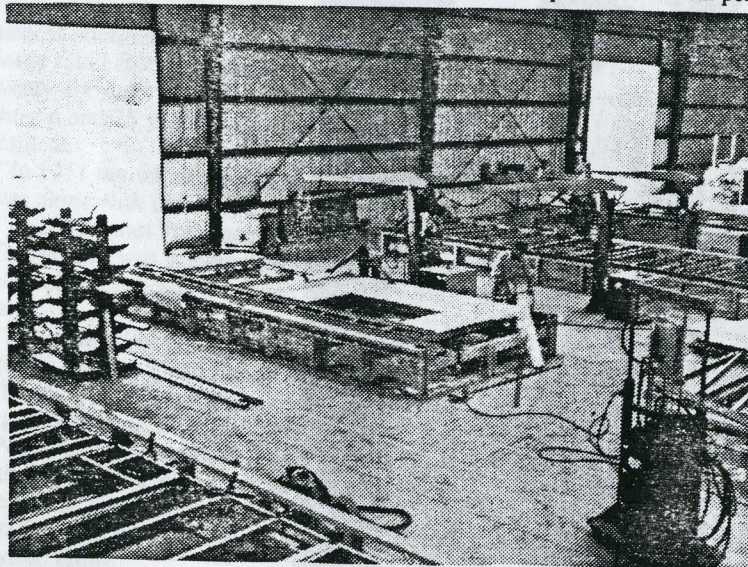
Piehl's photographs tell the construction story of Kings Point from beginning to . . .

Stanley Piehl, age 84, drove 4,000 miles from Washington last week, arriving in Ruskin in time for the holidays. He intends to live here the rest of his life along with his wife, Berniece, their dog, 'Trouble,' and cat, 'Snoopy.' They all survived the trip just fine, staying in hotels that allowed pets in the room.

This was not the first time Piehl visited the Ruskin area. He was first in Florida in 1931, flying a Tri-motor Ford airplane from Miami to the Panama Canal. He returned in 1973 during the early construction of Kings Point.

Piehl recalls in January of 1972 Kings Point West Inc. became a wholly owned subsidiary of Kings Point Housing Corporation of Delray Beach, but it wasn't until January of the following year that two models and the administration building were actually completed.

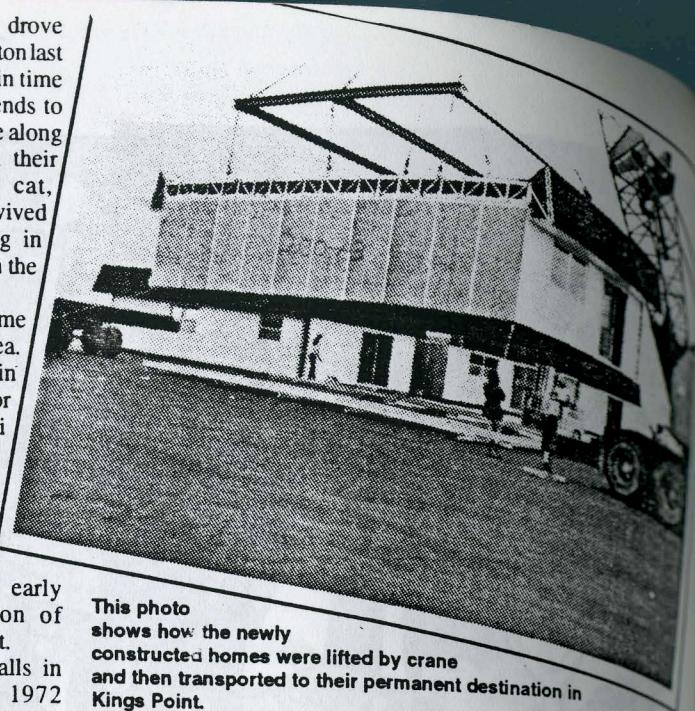
It was in February 1973 that Piehl was living in Temple Terrace and decided to apply for a job at Kings Point. He recalls being hired as a carpenter although he was not well suited to the job since carpentry had never been his profession. With per-



The photograph to the left shows the roofing procedure at the manufacturing plant where the Kings Point condos were constructed.



The administration building was finished in January 1973 and served as the pick-up and drop-off point for buyers.



This photo shows how the newly constructed homes were lifted by crane and then transported to their permanent destination in Kings Point.

PHOTOS BY STANLEY PIEHL

mission of his supervisor he ended up taking pictures step by step phase of the factory-built homes in Kings Point.

Piehl became interested in photography before he retired from the military in 1945. He said, "Photography was my hobby all through the years. I was in the service. I took pictures of the horses we had in the service. I had horses and slept in tents in those days," he laughed. "I always carried a camera and took many pictures while in the Panama Canal from 1931 to 1933."

In 1945, Piehl retired with a disability and began flying commercial for a company in the Carolinas. Flying around the country with a photographer who had a contract to photograph all the cotton mills in North Carolina only wetted his appetite for his own photographic opportunities. Piehl teamed up with Bill King and together they covered the Ruskin area for the Bradenton Herald. With the money from their first big job, Piehl took a share and bought a larger camera.



A piece of history...

Stay At The Inn Attracted Resident To Area

By Aleta Jonie Maschek

History continues with the pioneers of Sun City Center.

Between the years 1944 and 1990 we compared prices of the pasturelands and marshes of 1940s, when land in this area sold for \$2.50 per acre. In 1992 a quarter of an acre may cost you as much as \$90,000.

Del Webb's philosophy was a combined lifestyle retirement with community ownership and volunteer management of all its recreational facilities and community buildings.

The initial sales brochure pictured 18 models with price ranging from \$11,650 for a two bedroom, one bath home up to \$18,000 with big discounts for cash.

One of the first Del Webb ownership pioneers was Reginald "Reggie" Emerson who was 89 on Jan. 2.

Emerson had not seen a brochure but was traveling south on U.S. 301 from his home state of New Hampshire when he noticed the Kings Inn sign, and drove in to

spend the night. They were on their way to Sarasota to visit a neighbor who lived in New Hampshire prior to moving to Florida.

"The lovely room at the inn was \$10 for the night with breakfast. A full course dinner with all the trimmings was \$1.98. After dinner we decided to look at the model homes, and the next morning we bought a one bedroom home on Council Drive paying cash around \$11,000 or \$12,000. We went back to Washington, D.C., and got our belongings, as I had retired as a motel manager, and moved into our new home in December of 1962."

As we sat in Emerson's Lake Towers apartment he related.

"Memories are what I have now. My wife, Julia Rice Emerson, died two years after we bought our new home. Our two daughters were grown when we moved to Florida. Elizabeth and Jane live in Colorado and Michigan now. I hear from them often.

"I bought a three-bedroom house on Riveria around 1964 and paid

\$18,000 for it and lived there until our move to the Towers around 14 years ago.

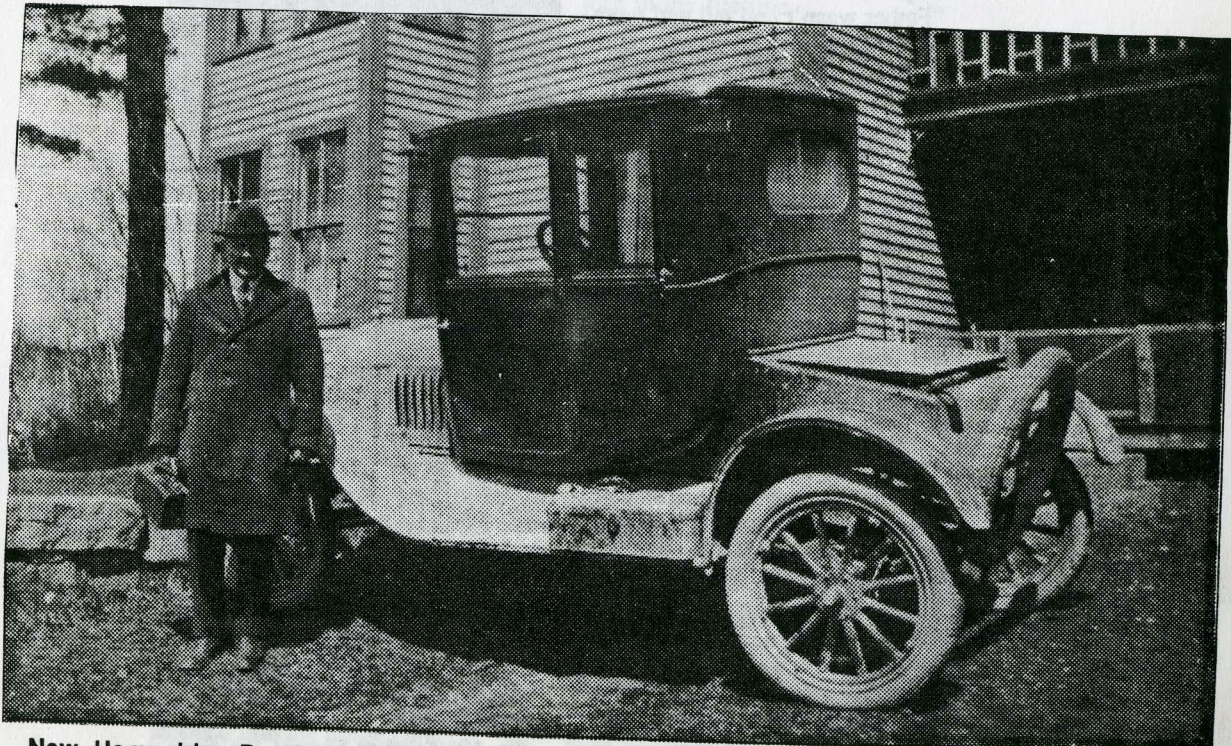
"I married Elinor Stone after Julia died and she and I lived 27 years in Sun City Center until I lost her last fall.

"Prices in the Towers have changed too. I have lived in a two-bedroom suite, then a one bedroom, and now in a perpetual care apartment.

"I belonged to the Hi-Neighbor Club and the Spanish Club. I never was a golfer. I played cards. Bridge was my game. I drove a golf cart around until last year when it caught fire at the bank. So now I depend upon the bus for transportation."

Asking Emerson of his childhood days he replied, "I was the son of a prominent country doctor in Fitzwilliam, N. H.

"I have fond memories of my father, who took me along with him on many house calls.



New Hampshire Dr. George S. Emerson stands beside his mud-covered Ford coupe which was described in his son's scrapbook as the "first enclosed all weather car with a covered trunk for medicines." Reggie Emerson's scrapbook also called attention to the tool box on the car's running board, noting "we did all our own road work then."

Join *The Celebrities*

The Sun City Center Trade Fair
on April 5th & 6th is the perfect opportunity
to meet the writers who make a difference at
The Shopper Observer News.

Your favorite columnists will be on hand:

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The Observer Astrolo-
ger who will help you
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penning History and
Fish Tales in the
Saturday Observer.

Jonie Maschek
Friday 9-?

Try to find yourself or
your friends and neigh-
bors on our Sun City
Center Celebrities board

?



'Reggie Emerson'

By Aleta Jonie Maschek

Dr. George S. Emerson prepares to leave on a house call in the frigid New Hampshire weather. He has on a buffalo coat with a heavy high collar, heavy mittens, two pairs of socks, high shoes and 12-inch overshoes.

the boiler. To start it we had to get under the car and use a blow torch. He could now travel 20 miles in an hour. Steering was done with a bicycle bar.

"The Stanley Steamer soon became outmoded and father had many different cars from then on. Mother switched from her horse Nellie to a Buick. Both my sister Elizabeth and I got licenses to drive and had cars.

"Father taught me many lessons with words that I have used and remembered through life. I remember one time I was laughing about a girl at school who lost her slip in the classroom and father stopped me saying that that girl's family was a patient of his and their money put food on our table. I never finished telling the story.

"I was sent to music school in the town of Keene. Mother would take me to the train depot and pick me up when I came back.

"Father was on the staff at Keene and Winchendon hospitals but never stopped making house calls.

"I graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a premed degree but never went on to become

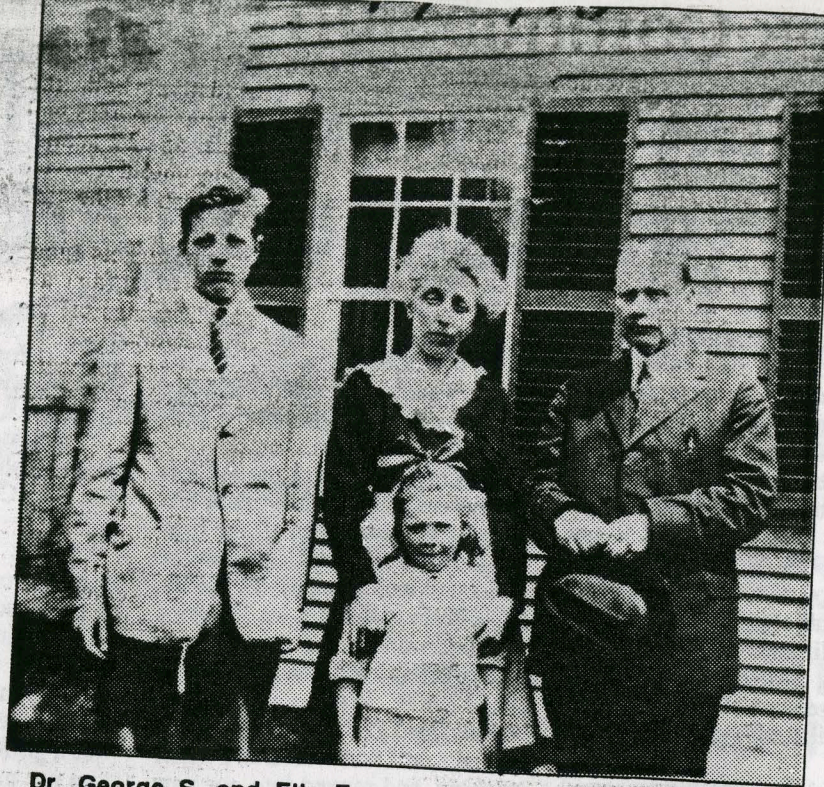
a doctor. I worked many different jobs in my lifetime.

"I was president of the Lions Club in New Hampshire and worked a lot with children. I am a member of the Odd Fellows and Masons Lodge, and a member of many Sun City Center organizations but no longer can be active.

"There was only half of the shopping center here when I moved in. The other half was built when Gould came in and bought Del Webb out. A fellow by the name of Jason Stafford had the drug store. All the banking was done in Ruskin or Bradenton.

"All the churches met in the town hall, there was no church buildings. I am a member and founder of the United Community Church. We used to have a 5 and 10-cent store too. We had a grocery store but it wasn't called Winn Dixie. It seems it was Kwik Chek. We used to hire a whole car on a train and go places."

Emerson has seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.



Dr. George S. and Ella Emerson pose with their two children, Reginald and Elizabeth for a family picture in July 1915.

History

"Patients could tell when father was arriving as he had a great tenor voice and was always singing as he came down their walkways. He sang in church as well as in the Grange meetings. I joined the Grange when I was 18.

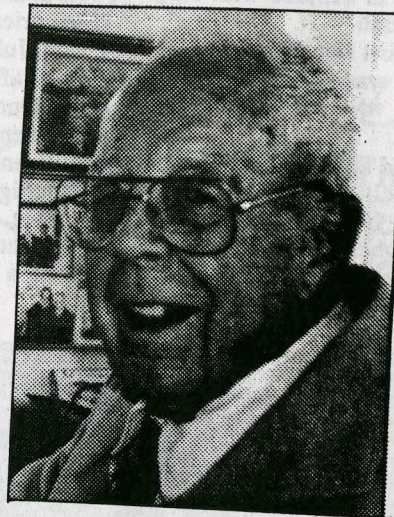
"Father wasn't real tall and wore a mustache to look older and more dignified, as the town's only doctor.

"My sister Elizabeth was 10 years younger than I and I was the only child for the first 10 years of my life.

"If you have ever been in New England you would know that the winters are very cold. Father made housecalls in the winter with a sleigh and horse. I remember a fur-lined coat he wore and mother always had gloves drying on the steam heaters. He had long fur-lined mittens and high top leather shoes with canvas shoes over them.

"There were times he had to wait for the snow to be cleared before he could take the sleigh out. My job was to clear a path and to prepare the horse for the trip.

"When there was no snow he would use a buggy and a horse. This was before the automobile. Father would always check the patient out before he would let me go in the houses. I had to sit in the sleigh covered with a soft lap robe



REGINALD EMERSON
Lives in Lake Towers

until he came back. He was very careful not to expose me to anything.

"As I grew older, I assisted father in operations in homes or in his office. There were no nurses within miles. He would put newspapers on the table, and check the patient while I was boiling the instruments on the stove. I would be the anesthesiologist for tonsil operations and such. I would also watch the office and try to assist patients when my mother was not at home.

"Father owned the first snowmobile in the area.

"In 1912 father bought the first car around — a Stanley Steamer. It used kerosene with a burner under



Joe Kay Photo

Barbara Bush, wife of George Bush, president of the United States, stumped for her husband during Oct. 29 appearance at Sun City Center.

First Lady Visits Sun City Center

By Aleta Jonie Maschek

In my career I have had tea at the White House with several first ladies. I found Pat Nixon, Nancy Reagan and Rosalyn Carter all charming and intelligent women.

This was the first time that I had met our first lady Barbara Bush. She was as charming as the other three that I've met.

When this goes to press, there perhaps may be another first lady, but those who didn't visit Kings Point Auditorium Oct. 29 missed hearing a dynamic speech by a wife stumping for her husband. She had a constant flow of information and answered questions with the utmost sincerity.

She told those attending that her

husband, George Bush, was the most qualified, most handsome, most decent, most honest, funniest, greatest man in the world. If every wife felt like this there wouldn't be many divorces in this world.

Traveling with Barbara Bush was her lovely 15-year-old granddaughter Noelle, from Miami. Noelle, introduced her grandmother to the vast crowd of Kings Point and Sun City Center people who always turn out in mass for such events.

Al Hoffman, Sun City Center developer, greeted Mrs. Bush and her granddaughter, giving her the key to Sun City Center and a golf cart to use whenever she visited them again.



Aleta Jonie Maschek is shown at the age of about 6 in her hometown of Mossyrock, Wash.



ALETA MASCHKE
3330 W SHELL PT RD
RUSKIN FL 33570

Jackie Fenzau Reviews

Kings Point History



JACKIE FENZAU

Kings Point was incorporated in July 1972, and by January 1973 two models and the administration building were completed.

This was the year the personnel staff had grown from eight to more than 200 people.

It had to be a pioneer spirit that was in the minds of the first residents who believed that this place would grow and all the plans would come true in time. Just as we write about the pioneers in our early surrounding cities and Ruskin, it indeed took faith and a foresight for people to give up their homes and come to Florida and move into a development that had many goals which had not been achieved.

One person who joined the Kings Point personnel staff in 1973 was Jackie Fenzau. She was the "Customer Service Representative." She did "turn-key-inspections," or checked all homes to see that every-

thing was up to standards before the owner moved in.

In August 1973 the clubhouse opened and by December 432 units were completed.

In August 1974 Ms. Fenzau was named "social director," a position she dearly loved and she was getting payed to work with all of the various clubs and organizations.

"As social director, I took on a multitude of responsibilities which included, managing the building, housekeepers and staff. I also coordinated entertainment, signed contracts, and everything that needed to be done," said Ms. Fenzau.

"The year 1974 was an economic slowdown and Kings Point stopped growing. The management was turned over to Norin Corp. who had Punta Gorda Isles, people take over. Everyone pitched in to help. Even the residents took turns at volunteering to serve as guards at the gate.

"In 1975 staff cuts were being made everywhere and I chose to quit, getting my real estate license, and sold houses until 1979.

"In 1979 things were booming again with 337 villas sold. I was back at my old job.

"In February 1981 Southern Operations purchased Kings Point West, and in October that same year

W-G Development purchased all the stock.

"The Kings Point West Civic and Homeowners Association was started Nov. 18, 1974 with bylaws accepted in February 1975.

"The purpose of this organization was to promote the health, safety, welfare and general interest of its members.

"As of January 1993 my title has been changed to 'Entertainment Director' a job which has grown through the years. We book many big names into Kings Point. On Feb. 4 we have a bit of Broadway with Fran Warren in 'My Broadway,' Feb. 11 the Foggy River Boys will be on stage, the Manhattan Rhythm Kings will perform Feb. 21. I try to book a variety of shows. I know you can't please everyone but I sure give it a try.

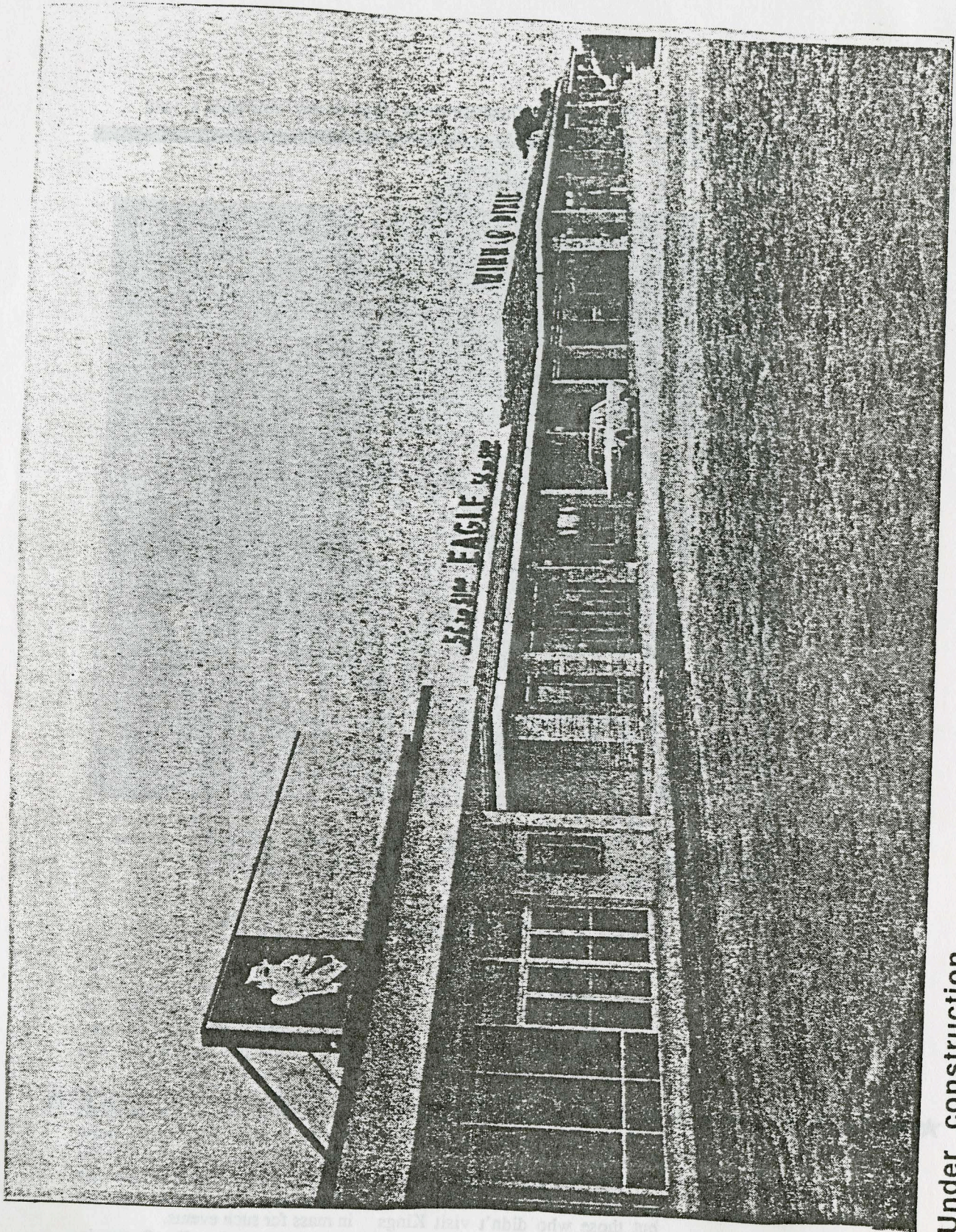
"I took a course at Sangamon University in theater. I'm listed state, national and international as a performing arts presenter, I belong to that association.

"I receive reams of literature from New York, I have many performers in which to make my selections.

"In my new position, I work only eight months a year instead of 12. For the first time I get the summer off.

"I guess the highlight of my career was working with President

history...



Under construction

This is how the Sun City Center Shopping Center appeared during its construction in 1970. The site of the Jerry Lewis

Theater is now occupied by offices; the Winn Dixie has relocated to the west side of the center; the Eagle department store moved and the Dollar Savings Store has replaced it.

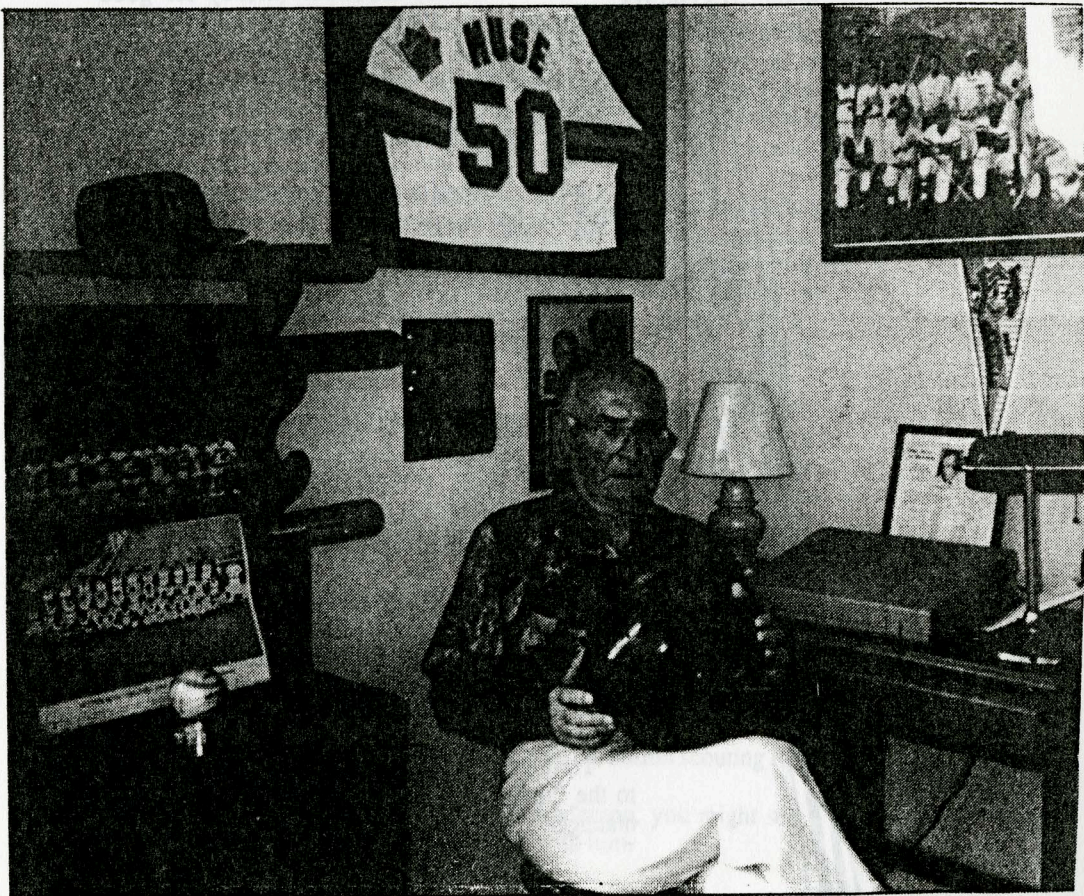
A PIECE OF TODAY

Baseball Professional Helped Shape Sport's Future

Ruskin resident Charlie Muse, from Pittsburgh, Pa., speaks and breathes Pittsburgh Pirate baseball.

After years spent as a catcher and manager in the minor league Pittsburgh Pirates, Muse is now involved in the Pirates spring training in Bradenton. The former player helped design the helmet that is now mandatory in the

major league. He is the proud owner of not one but two national championship rings, which he wears proudly.



Jonie Maschek Photo

The recent baseball strike hasn't dampened the spirit of Charlie Muse. This long time Pittsburgh Pirate fan, former baseball manager and catcher, and current spring training assistant has found a lifetime of enjoyment in the sport.



Jackie Fenzau, Business Person of the Year;

Ronald Reagan's secret service men and the letter I received from the President.

"Of course I have worked with many well-known people, as you can see by my pictures on the wall."

As I looked over the photos I saw many singers, movies stars and some very important people, who had passed through Ms. Fenzau's office.

She hails from Indiana as does her husband Bill. She is married to her high school sweetheart.

They have two sons, Micheal and William who live in the area, and a daughter Barbra, who is principal of Gibsonton Elementary School.

While living in Florida the past 28 years she has been active in community affairs in Kings Point

as well as having served as President of the Ruskin Woman's Club, the Tampa's Arts Council, local churches, PTA, chosen Woman of the Year of Ruskin Chamber of Commerce in 1972 and this year Business Person of the Year by the Sun City Center Area Chamber of Commerce. She was honored with a "Jackie Fenzau Day," at Kings Point recently. She loves dancing and there has been many times when the top personalities fail to show on time for their performances, she gives the audience a bit of her tap routine.

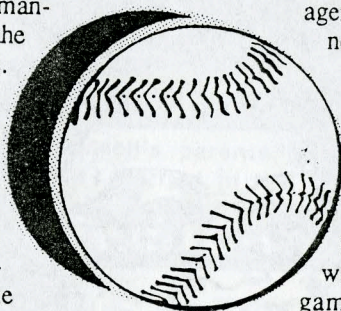
This vivacious, busy, woman is loved by all at Kings Point and Sun City Center. She has succeeded because of her love of people.

Performances are open to the public at Kings Point, but often are sold out before showtime.

was instrumental in creating today's standard baseball helmet.

"I finished college and was asked then the Pirate's general manager to sign a helmet to replace the caps used before the 1950s. became the first team ever hard hat helmet."

by Branch Rickey, manager, to help design non-protective The Pirates to wear the



Muse said, "I saw a lot of hit on the head and really knew what the players was a long process to perfect design, and players were all them during games. At one thunderstorm, the players and the soaked. A Detroit Tiger official at the game asked to see one of the helmets. The lining disintegrated when he took the helmet and it ended up in fragments all over his white suit. It is laughable now, but it sure was embarrassing then," continued Muse who continued to work on the helmet and took about 11 years to perfect it. He says, "My motto is, 'keep a head, wear a safety cap'."

players get hurt, so I needed. It the helmet's ways testing game during a helmets were

Muse maintained his love of baseball for the last five decades through his varied involvement with the Pittsburgh Pirates. He has been operation manager, traveling secretary, general manager and scout, which still occupies much of his time. Last year he traveled 14,000 miles, looking at prospects across the country in colleges and high schools. He also worked in the press box as the "eye in the sky" drafting each player's performance and targeting hits.

Spending 55 years in baseball, Muse has collected a vast collection of memorabilia. He has autographed bats, photographs, sketches, of players and personal Pirate World Series memories. As we stroll through his baseball room, one is reminded of Pittsburgh Pirate's Hall of Fame.

Muse's contributions to baseball are numerous and they weigh on the minds of players in every game. Muse lights up by the mere mention of the word baseball. It is his love.

Charlie Muse has been in Florida since his 1989 retirement, but considers himself "on call" at any time the Pittsburgh Pirates need him.

We asked Charlie Muse when he intends to give up baseball and he replied, "I never plan to leave baseball. It has been such a big part of my life. I can't just walk away from it."

Next spring, Muse will be traveling again across the nation scouting for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

If you visit the Pirates training quarters in Bradenton, you might see Charlie Muse. Shake his hand and talk baseball with him.

Baseball

While enrolled at Duquesne University, a college that has produced some of the finest lawyers in the world, Muse spent his summers scouting for new players for the Pirates and became Duquesne University's baseball coach. A coach with unique talents, he put a baseball team together in a college that had not had a team in 24 years, and they won 10 out of 15 games.

Muse explained what first sparked his interest in baseball, "I was 8 years old and was listening to the Pirates in the World Series. I got so excited that I knocked my radio over and didn't learn the results for three hours."

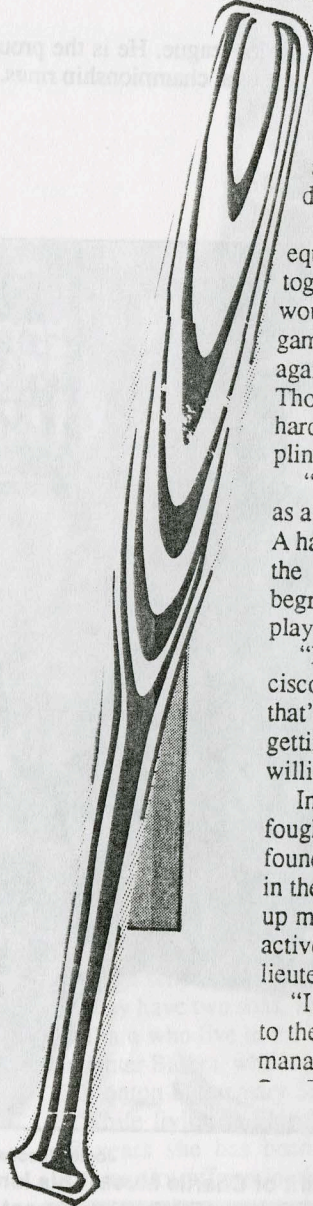
"As a child I didn't have money for good equipment, so I had to tape and nail old bats together. I even sewed up unraveled balls. They would hold together for a day or so in neighborhood games and then we would have to fix them all over again or find some more for the next time we played. Those were the depression years and I believe the hardships in those games helped develop a discipline that has stayed with me."

"I spent three years in the Pirate's minor league as a catcher from 1938-1941 earning \$65 a month. A hamburger, soda and ice cream costs 50 cents at the concession stand," said Muse who doesn't begrudge the million dollar contracts of today's players.

"Former Pirate Barry Bonds went to San Francisco and signed a \$43 million contract and I think that's great. I don't see anything wrong with players getting high salaries if the fans and advertisers are willing to pay that much."

In 1941, Muse was drafted into the military. He fought in World War II and the Korean War and still found the time to stay involved in baseball. "While in the service I organized baseball teams, and kept up my love for the game. I served for 29 years of active and reserve military service and retired as a lieutenant colonel.

"I returned to civilian life in 1946 and went back to the Pirates, first as a scouter, and then a ticket manager," said the innovative baseball lover who





Pictured are Fred Russell's parents, David Russell and Ellen McCaughley who were married in the 1900s.

A PIECE OF HISTORY

By Aleta Jonie
Maschek

Sun City's Fred Russell Shares Fond Memories

Fred and Ann Russell have been married 65 years this July.

This devoted couple are well-known in Sun City Center since their arrival Jan. 1, 1970 from New York.

Sun City Center recently had a "Fred Russell Day" for this popular citizen.

Fred S. Russell was born in 1905 in Warsaw, New York, one of five children.

"I had two sisters, both now deceased, Anna and Ellen; two brothers, David who now lives in Port St. Lucie and William who lives in Rochester, N.Y.

"My mother came from Ulster, Ireland as did my father. Father came to the United States by himself as a boy to live with an uncle in Geneseo, N.Y. His mother, my grandmother, died when he was a young boy. My grandfather Alexander Russell stayed in Ireland. Mother came to the states with her mother, Anna and father, Samuel McCaughley. My parents did not know one another in Ireland but met in the United States and were married in 1900 in Geneseo, N.Y.

"When we lived in Geneseo, father was a farmer. We then moved to Warsaw, N.Y. and father worked in the salt mines. The first three children were born in Warsaw, including myself. All this area was full of salt mines probably about eight or 10 mines. A big company came in and bought the mines, so father moved on to work in a button fac-

tory."

Russell remembers more than just the work in those days, commenting on his childhood:

"My older brothers would try to make me fight, but I only would make a fist and pretend. I remember once I crawled up into a high hay loft that belonged to the man who owned the grocery store, and the older boys dared me to jump and I did. As I fell, my knees came up and hit my nose causing it to bleed. All the kids ran and of course I ran home and father was really upset with me.

"We more-or-less made our own entertainment. We also took the horse and buggy that belonged to the grocer for a ride. He wasn't happy about it, but our father was such a good customer he let us do it. My favorite game was tobacco bags. We would stuff cloth tobacco bags with grass and use them for a ball. We played regular baseball with this. If the fielder hit you with the bag, you were out.

"I went fishing with my father and I remember we caught a lot of sunfish which we ate. Sometimes we would use a branch for a pole. Later on we had a cane pole. We didn't have a net or any modern fishing means. When the fish got on the end of that line, you brought him in. We fished from shore, we didn't have a boat.

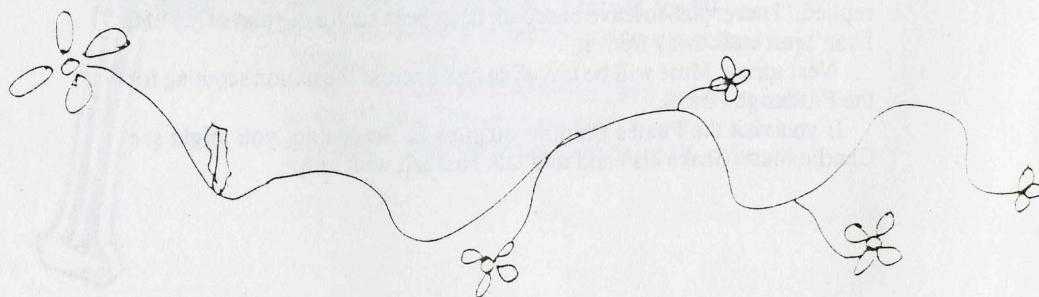
"Dad was interested in flowers and we always had a beautiful yard.

See HISTORY, Page 2

Baseball



Fred and Ann Russell, who are enjoying life in Sun City Center these days, are shown in this recent picture.



History

From Page 1

I would plant vegetables and work with him in the yard. Our school had contests for the best beans and such and I remember I got a blue ribbon for everything I grew.

"My mother was a great cook. I loved her milk gravy, potatoes and cod fish. She made apple pies and an Irish bread that I have never found any like it today. I have bought what they call Irish bread, but it doesn't compare to what my mother made. She also made a great soup and baked beans.

"I worked in a factory when I was 13 years old, but soon decided that it wasn't for me and got a job as an apprentice brick layer. I took a night school course in blue print reading and estimating costs.

"When I was 22 years old I married Ann Wenglegin. We met at a YWCA dance, a stag affair, for men and women. We had a small but nice wedding.

"I took an office job, then became general manager and later I was president of Alexander Shumbay Utz Company. I changed it to Russell, Shumbay Utz, when I was president. We did general contracting, designed and drew up plans and submitted costs, we didn't bid on jobs. I finally sold the company to become commissioner of public works in Rochester, N.Y.

"I was also commissioner of the state insurance funds for the State of New York at one time. I soon learned that you cannot apply business principles to government positions. You have to be a politician and learn to give and take, then compromise.

"After returning to public life I worked for a developer called Wilmore for six years, then retired to Sun City Center in 1970.

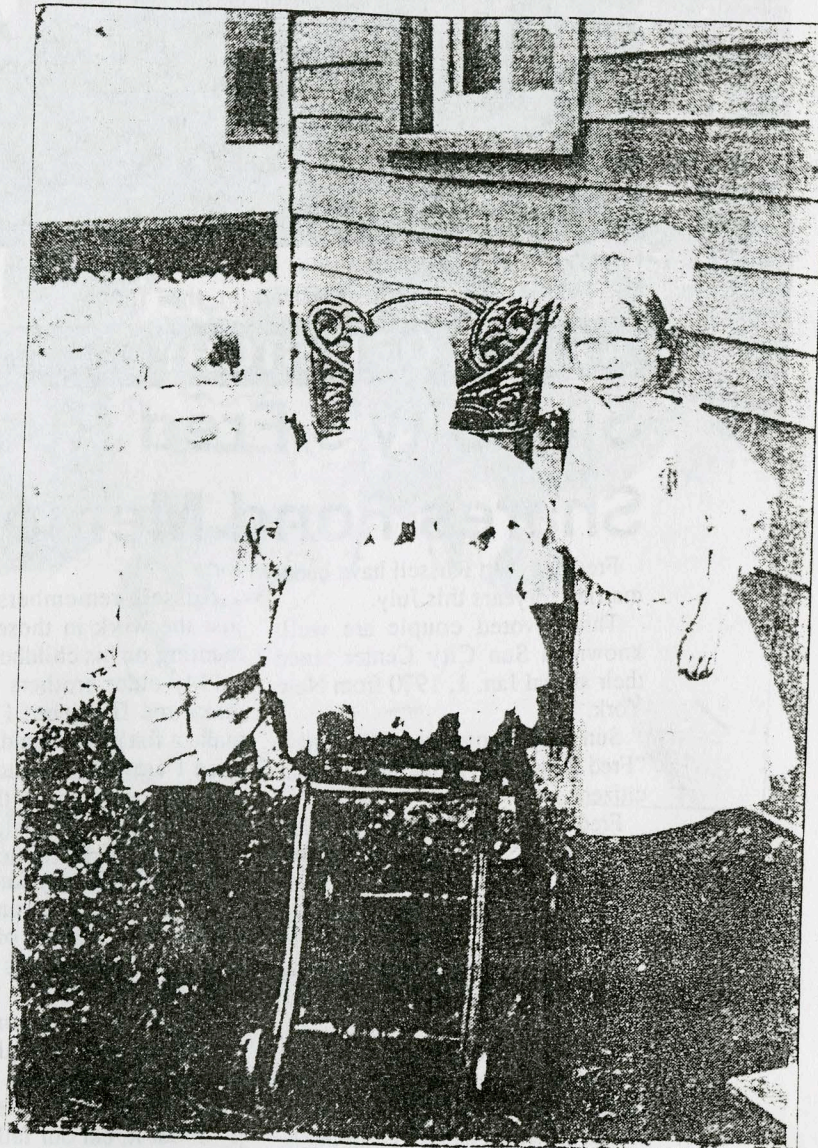
"I have devoted 17 years of my life to Sun City Center, being president of the Home Owners Association in 1975 and 1976, president of the Civic Association in 1979 and a director in 1978."

Russell received an Outstanding Citizen Award from the Chamber of Commerce in 1983, for contributing to the betterment of Sun City Center. On Dec. 1, 1992 a Fred Russell Day was celebrated by the Sun City Center Community Association. He received many awards from various organizations.

Russell's first involvement in Sun City Center stemmed from the late Earl Taton, who was then chairman of the Homeowners Association and was in a bitter fight to keep Sun City Center isolated from streets running through from U.S. 301 and such. Needless to say they won their fight and today all streets end at S.R. 674.

Russell, thought he would play golf and relax when he moved to Sun City Center but his life has been as busy as it was when he was president of a large company or when he was a commissioner of the State of New York.

He now is busy working in his beautiful yard in his flowers, enjoying his wife Ann. Russell also handles the affairs of the late Earl Taton's wife and those of his sister-in-law, who both are in nursing homes.

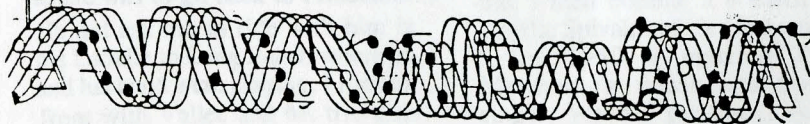


Shown in this 1906 photo, Fred Russell sits in his highchair between his brother, David, and his sister, Anna.

Retired, Singer Makes Home In Sun City Center



Tom Eldridge, shown above, joined the Guy Lombardo Trio in 1944 with Carmen Lombardo, Jimmy Brown and Fred Hlgman at the Stage Door Canteen in Cleveland. Eldridge continues to perform in his retirement.



Crooning the tunes from the Big Band era is Sun City Center newcomer Tom Eldridge.

Originally from Elizabeth, N.J., Eldridge is now living in Sun City Center with his wife Mary Jo. They were married in 1988.

Eldridge loves to sing. In our interview we found that he was a pop singer with big bands in the '40s, including Guy Lombardo.

He attended public school his first four years and then transferred to a private school, Pingry Country Day School. "I was lured to the athletic field on my first day and given a good roughing up by my fellow students, I guess it was their way of saying, 'welcome.'" It wasn't long until I established a bit of prestige by playing baseball, becoming a star pitcher that continued until my graduation in 1933.

"I was in the glee club at Pingry and also played a clarinet in the school orchestra. My grandfather had conducted an orchestra which played classical music. My mother was a serious pianist and traveled regularly to New York City for lessons. We had a sizable grand piano in our home. Mother would play it for hours.

"My grandmother's house had a very large music room and it was there that I took piano lessons from my cousin Gladys. As I look back I can say my family was musical and perhaps that is why I chose it as my profession," explains Eldridge.

"My first solo singing began when I enrolled in Princeton in the fall of 1933. I only stayed at Princeton one year, to the dismay of



This 1920s photo shows Diana Walker (Glanz) at the height of her career as a Gibson Girl.

Singer

my parents, but I was so anxious to be out in the 'real world,' to start my singing career. Mother realized I wanted to give music a try.

"My father was an attorney, and had served a term in the New Jersey State Legislature. Dad became somewhat alienated from me because of my decision to leave Princeton," reflects Eldridge. "We really had a good close relationship though and he never once brought up my decision. He was musical himself and had a solid smooth baritone voice. He died at the age of 53."

Upon Eldridge's decision to leave, he determined that he should have some background to work from. "So I enrolled in the Institute of Musical Art of the Juilliard School of Music," remarks the singer whose training would pay off in a very big way.

"I had a choice of railroads to New York, the Jersey Central or the Pennsylvania Railroad. I usually took the Pennsylvania as it seemed more luxurious and went directly to Penn Station.

"Charlie Bishop, the postmaster of Elizabeth, N.J. was a friend of Rudy Vallee, and made arrangements for me to visit him at his New York office. Vallee's office was in the Steinway Building on West 57th Street. The building was inspiring to any musician, filled with beautiful Steinway pianos. I'd already mailed Vallee a Speak-A-Phone disc for audition. His advice to me was to go back to Princeton. He did ask me to ride with him in his LaSalle to Long Beach where he and his band were playing. I rode up front with Vallee and his trio girls rode in the back. They rehearsed on the way over. What a thrill to be with Rudy Vallee, I now was determined to make it in show

business.

"I took a job as a page at NBC, which was in Radio City's RCA Building. The job had a certain amount of prestige and an aura of glamour about it. I was paid \$65 a month. I was exposed to some stars such as Jack Benny and Mary Livingston, Alice Fay, Steve Allen, George Olson, Fred Allan and I saw

Rudy Vallee again. We had blue uniforms with gold braid. One fellow page, which I'm sure everyone knows was Dave Garroway. He was a guide who explained in his own way the

intricacies of the operation. I also met Dinah Shore who had a show known as 'The Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street.' NBC at that time had red and blue network. Dinah was on the blue network.

"I first started to sing with Sonny James and his Orchestra. It was financed by his family who owned James Soft Water Taffy known to all who have been on the Board Walk," states Eldridge who was drafted into the infantry while with the James Orchestra, but after going through boot camp was discharged because of asthma.

"In 1942 I was a student of Marguerite Haymes, mother of Dick Haymes. Haymes and his wife Joanne Dru, came to see his mother while I was there and he encouraged me. I then became a vocalist with Charlie Spivak and his Orchestra.

"In 1950 I married Peggy Marshall, a vocal arranger and singer. We did the songs for the opening and closing of the Arthur Godfrey Show and often had sustainers on both red and blue networks at the same time.

"I then joined the Guy Lombardo band. Our first stop was Cleveland. The chief arranger was Dewey Bergman and my first solo was 'Some Peaceful Evening.' The three oldest Lombardos would invariably be strongly worded in their comments at rehearsal. Carmen was the singer, Guy seemed to prevail in these things and the higher key would invariably be chosen. This was probably the right kind of decision, though I preferred my lower range sound. When the Lombardos got their start in the '20s most dance bands used tuba or mellophone as the bass rhythm and some turned to string bass, but the Lombardos guarded their fabulously successful sound, the brass bass.

"One day after a show Carmen and I found a string bassist and Carmen decided to make him part of the show. Everyone got their usual spots, with nobody suspecting anything. As the band began to play the opening theme, every note Dud Fosdick played as mellophonist was being reinforced by a string bass.

This added a buoyant feel and I thought sounded great, but as far as I know it was the first and last for Guy Lombardo and the Royal Canadians.

"When Guy Lombardo did a stage show the performers sat on the bandstand throughout each show. The vocalists did not come from the wings for their featured spots but

merely stood in place. Next to me sat Rosemarie Lombardo, the kid sister. We did a weekly radio show for Chelsea cigarettes on stage between evening shows. My songs were 'I'll Be Seeing You,' and 'Long Ago and Far Away.' Young girls would sometimes follow me and meet me at the stage door.

"I played the famous

Meadowbrook Ballroom in New Jersey, the Glenn Island Casino in Long Island, sang with Bob Strong and his 18-piece orchestra, played the Plaza Hotel in New York with Hildagarde, but in the '60s the big bands were fading out...I became a real estate broker, a profession from which I retired before coming to Sun City Center."



Tom Eldridge is shown above in 1944 with Navy personnel at a U.S.O. canteen in Cleveland. During his music career, Eldridge sang with Sonny James and his Orchestra and the Guy Lombardo band.

A piece of history...

'History' Travels Through Time

By Aleta Jonie Maschek

As 1990 comes to a close, we look back on the past year of "A piece of history" with pride.

The travelogue to surrounding communities provided a treasure hunt, new knowledge of antiques and a vast knowledge of farming.

We now know about Fort Lonsome. We have learned about the various streets and farms in that area. It is not always easy to find some of the dirt roads without street signs. Discovering the community of Hurrah and meeting its friendly and warm people as well as those in Picnic was enjoyable.

These communities still exist but if one travels at a high rate of speed you will have gone by them before you realize they were at the cross-road you just passed.

The Balm area has been a delight to visit with some of the finest people in the area. Each was helpful in our efforts to write about the history of the area.

Sun City is an area where many of our pioneers settled. It has a vast historical past with some of the descendants of the pioneers still living there.

The towns of Gibsonton and Riverview have furnished us with many

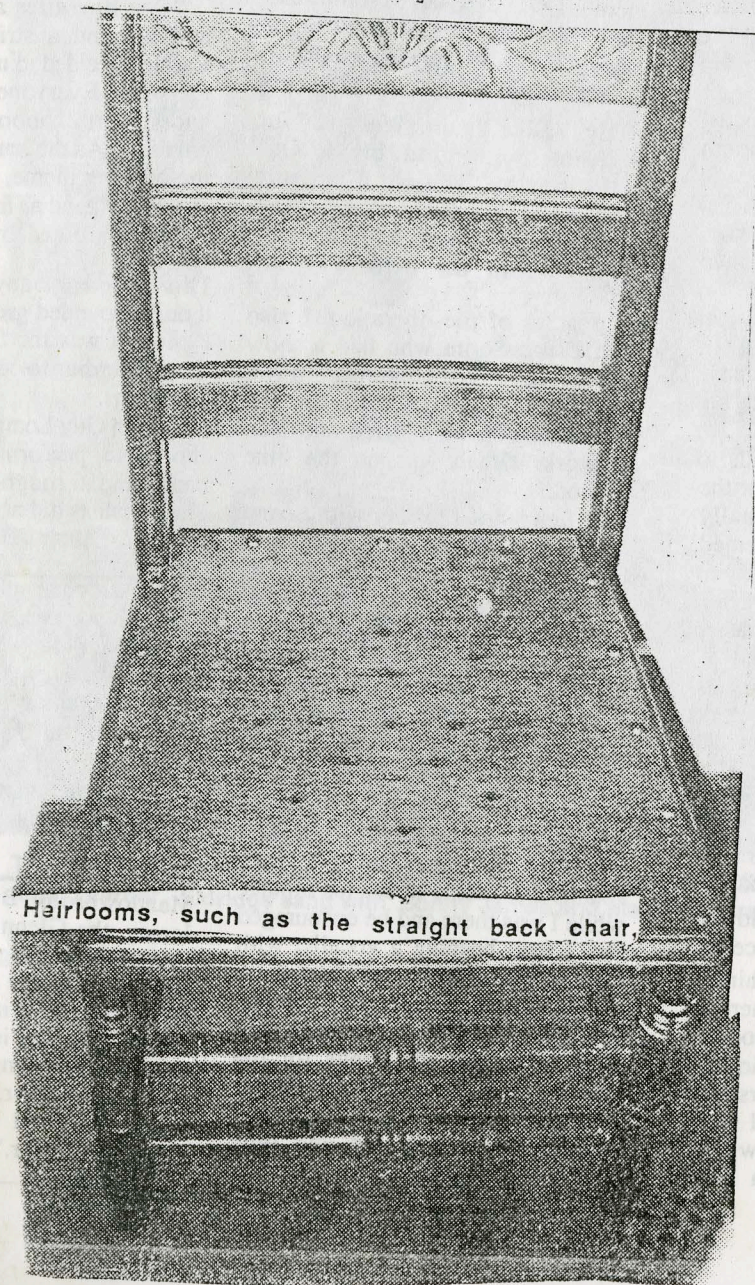
delightful stories of the past. Wilmauma is a community that can boast of being the first in the area with a railroad station. Those coming to Ruskin came into the Wilmauma train station. Ruskin once had a college, thus the street named College Avenue. Ruskin history has filled many pages of "A piece of history," with statesmen to farmers revealing to us stories of the past.

We have traveled through pastures, encountered cattle, hogs, dogs and one morning saw a panther and two red fox. Our travels have taken us down dirt roads, non-existing roads, through fields, gravel roads, expressways, state and county roads, through woods, trailer parks and camp sites.

Our treasure hunts sometimes began in dresser drawers stuffed with old photos and papers. We've sat for hours on the floor going through them. Our families have discovered pictures that they had forgotten they had. We have gone through pillow slips of treasures, finding valuable documents of the past.

Climbing in attics became part of our weekly routine. We brought families together for our history stories who had not seen each other in a long time. Family reunions became a part of our life. Eating on the ground with kin-folks was a new and delightful experience. We found old tools in sheds out behind the house. Our visits to the old home steads have been a delight. You have transported us in trucks, wagons, station wagons and cadillacs to various spots and we thank you for your time and interest in our stories.

We have seen many old Bibles and are thankful for the dates put into them during the years. They have been a great source for our history. Family scrapbooks have helped us tremendously. Some have trusted us with deeds, marriage license, war documents and your treasured papers.



Heirlooms, such as the straight back chair.

AND HERE

DEL WEBB'S Sun F L O R I D A

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READY and
WAITING
For Your
ACTIVE
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Send us their names and
we'll be happy to send the
wonderful story of this re
munity that's reserved ex
those lucky enough to be
(partners, of course, may b

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Del Webb's Sun City, P. O. BC

Sun City Center, Florida

NOTE: Areas marked with cross-hatched lines on this plat map indicate neighborhoods in which lots for homes will be sold after unmarked areas are sold out.

JANUARY 1962
SALES MAP

