

Early History of the Association...



In 1976 Judy Fussell, in charge of community relations for Kaiser-Aetna, began holding meetings for the women on the Ranch to help them become acquainted with each other. By 1978 there were enough residents to establish a permanent club. The new organization held its first activity, a "Meet Your Neighbor" luncheon, on April 4, 1978, at the McCormick Ranch golf clubhouse at the cost of \$4.50. That same month members attended a taping of Erma Bombeck at the KTVK TV studio, followed by lunch at the clubhouse. The taped segment was shown later on Good Morning America. The Association nominated its first slate of officers at the May luncheon and also set dues at \$6. a year. Bylaws were established and a Statement of Purpose was written as follows: "The purpose shall be to foster community spirit, activities and projects to further the common interests of members."

Early days of the M.R.W.A.

1978 - Children's Holiday Parade

1980 - Funded first BBQ grill and water fountain at Mt. View Park

1983 - MRWA members selected to staff information booths for the building fund of Scottsdale Memorial North, now Scottsdale Healthcare Shea.

1984 - Established the Volunteer Network, placing 100's of volunteers with organizations that needed their help on and off the Ranch.

1986 - Began the Pot-of-Gold collection at luncheons, which today still provides dollar donations to local charities.

1987 - Created member cookbooks and held member holiday boutiques selling items at a profit to augment Pot-of-Gold donation dollars.

1993 - President Judy Anderson worked with city engineers to have turn lights and marked pedestrian walkways installed at Hayden and McCormick Parkway.

1998 - Speaker Sheriff Joe Arpaio's appearance at a luncheon initiates the occasional attendance of husbands at monthly luncheons.

Meet our namesake, Mrs. Anne McCormick

In 1943 Anne and Fowler McCormick were searching for a large acreage where they could raise horses and ride. They had spent several winters in Arizona and found that the dry weather helped Mrs. McCormick's arthritis. These newcomers were a far cry from the usual desert settlers who scratched out bare livings from their lonely acres. Fowler McCormick's grandfathers were Cyrus H. McCormick, inventor of the mechanical reaper, and John D. Rockefeller, one of the country's wealthiest men. The McCormicks' horses were the main attraction on their ranch, beautiful Arabians, including stallions imported from Poland and England, that took blue ribbons in horse shows all over the country. In the early years, Mrs. McCormick left during the summer months, but she grew to love her desert ranch and later remained year round. She was an active participant in managing her land, spending hours studying the bloodlines of her livestock, especially the horses. Although Fowler McCormick came whenever he could, the ranch was hers to run. Mrs. McCormick died In 1969. Fowler McCormick passed away in 1973.

