



MERLE D. BUNKER (Wildcat Lair Director)

Merle D. Bunker was born in Tooele, Utah in 1923. She married B. Allen Bunker in 1946 and graduated from the University of Utah in 1948. They then moved to Las Vegas where Merle worked for the City of Las Vegas as director of the new “Wildcat Lair”, a recreational club for the students of Las Vegas High School. She produced a teenage radio program called “Lair on the Air” which was broadcasted on “KENO” radio. She also moonlighted as the area correspondent for the Salt Lake Deseret News.

In 1951 Merle was promoted to Assistant Recreation Director in charge of youth programs for the City of Las Vegas. She later appeared as “Miss Nancy” in the TV program called “Romper Room” on Channel 2 for two years. She wrote, produced and starred in the “Cinderella Show” on Channel 8 for ten years, appearing with more than 30,000 children. She was named Nevada’s outstanding citizen.

In July, 2003 the Clark County Nevada Heritage Museum honored Merle with the opening of an exhibit of some of her memorabilia.

In 1975 the Bunkers moved to Mesa, Arizona where Merle served as coordinator for the U. S. National Bicentennial and Mesa Centennial celebrations. She was named outstanding citizen of the City of Mesa in 1987.

Merle served in many positions with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She had her own public relations company and TV dating service, and assisted her husband in their mortuary business for more than 30 years. Merle passed away on January 1, 2006 at the age of 82.

These biographies are based on research and could contain discrepancies.
If there are any excerpts you feel should be changed please feel free to contact dave@lvhsaa.com.

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