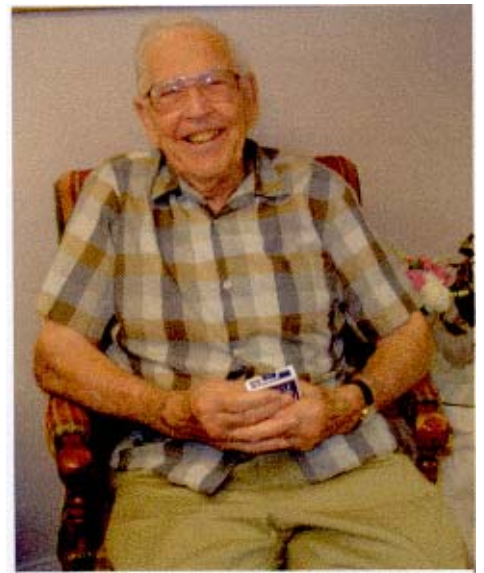


**P**eople, pecans, pinochle and pie. That in a P-nut shell sums up Mac

McNinch. He's certainly a people person. He loves them and they love him. He owns, and with a little help, still operates a pecan ranch which yielded over 4,000 pounds of the nuts this season. He looks forward to Tuesday nights when he can play pinochle, or any afternoon he can get a couple of friends together for an impromptu session. And when it comes to dessert he will pick pie any time. His favorites? Peach and pecan of course.



**Mac McNinch is always ready for a fast game of pinochle.**

But that's hardly all there is to Mac. He was born in a small town in Michigan, where he learned self-reliance through all the cliches of the good old days. He walked to school through the snow, milked the cows before breakfast, attended church every Sunday and read a book instead of watching television. All of this prepared him for a varied career when he was old enough to leave home.

During the war he delivered airplane parts for an aircraft plant in Avondale. After his marriage in 1951 to Nora Stevens, they moved to San Diego and Mac owned a wholesale milk and produce route. Tiring of traveling, Mac bought a 120-acre ranch in Alpine, California, and turned it into a 12,000 layer-chicken and egg ranch.

In 1970 Mac retired and he and Nora moved to Camp Verde. But he soon found retirement was for the other guy and so he raised and butchered cattle while waiting for the 100 pecan trees he planted to mature and start bearing nuts. When they did he became a semi-retired pecan rancher. And that's what he is today.

Mac and Nora bought a motor home and toured all over the United States, including Alaska. Mac was fond of fishing and that became a big part of their travels. When Nora's health began to fail, they moved into Cottonwood Village. He lost her last September and it has been a hurdle Mac often finds difficult to handle.

Mac has a daughter by a previous marriage. Sandra Venneberg lives in Greenville, S.C., but frequently visits her father here in Cottonwood. As a matter of fact, she was here last month to help him celebrate his birthday. When Sandra is not around, the "taking care of" duties fall to his nieces Pat Hehir and Sherrill Crouch, both of whom live in Camp Verde, and watch after him like loving daughters. He doesn't need the watching-after but secretly he loves it!

He's a big favorite in the dining room too. All the waitresses love waiting on him and he thinks of them as adopted granddaughters. Forgive the injection of a personal note, but have you noticed this paean to the people, pecan, pinochle, pie man was written.. .

By Peggy Powell