

City of Chino ❖ Hall of Fame

presented on May 15, 2018 honoring

Alfred R. Brown

Alfred R. Brown, known as Alf, was a country farm boy turned businessman, civic leader, and community historian.

Alf was born August 29, 1883, in Farmdale, California, son of covered wagon pioneers. Ten years later, he and a brother drove the family's 30 drought-thirsty cows on a three day trip to a new home in Chino, pasturing them on land now occupied by Chino Airport.

Mr. Brown attended Chino's old brick schoolhouse; and in 1900, he graduated from Riverside Business College. He began farming for himself in 1904, as well as engaging in custom hay bailing and land leveling. With his work crews, he helped to build many of the first roads east of Chino.

In 1913, Mr. Brown married Alice Beck. He continued in the building and construction trade for several years. In 1925, he built their house at 10th and D streets, where they lived the rest of their lives. He then became an insurance agent and worked at it for more than 30 years. He was appointed as the district manager of the Farm Bureau for State Farm Mutual Insurance Company, and became the local agent serving Chino. Mr. Brown served as its chairman, and was also secretary-treasurer of the Farm Bureau for ten years. While on the Farm Bureau, he headed committees to enter prize-winning agricultural exhibits in the Los Angeles County Fair.

Active locally, Mr. Brown organized the first Chino safety council in 1928, and was its chairman for 25 years. He also helped to set up a high school driver's education program. His civic involvement was extensive. He was a charter member of the Chino Lions Club, and was president for a term. He was chancellor commander and a 50-year member of the Knights of Pythias, Chino Lodge, as well as a 50-year member and past president of the Chino Pioneer Society. Mr. Brown worked with the Red Cross and the Community Chest, as well as other charitable services. He was past director of the Chino Chamber of Commerce, and was on the Chamber's historical committee serving as community historian.

During World War II, Mr. Brown was in charge of gasoline rationing for all farm trucks and tractors for the west end of San Bernardino County. He received the American Legion's Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award in 1956. Alfred died on July 21, 1961.