

City of Chino ❖ Hall of Fame

presented on April 28, 2004 honoring

James C. Reher

James C. Reher, the town druggist, was a sparkplug in the formation of the city and its civic development. Through his quiet but steady leadership, an incorporation movement led to Chino's cityhood in 1910. Through his involvement, numerous business and community organizations flourished.

Jim Reher was born January 6, 1878 in Santa Ana, California and moved to Chino in 1906 with a degree in pharmacy from the University of California. His store at Sixth and "D" Streets became a focal point of activity.

In July 1908, Mr. Reher joined two other businessmen in calling a meeting in a room above his drug store to form a Board of Trade, forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce. Out of this came the city incorporation movement. A year later he headed the citizen's committee which led to the vote. He was elected one of the first five city trustees (councilmen). As such, his work led to the improvement of the water system and the installation of water meters.

He was president of the Chamber of Commerce twice, charter member and past president of Rotary, with forty years of perfect attendance; board member of the local bank for fifteen years and Red Cross chairman. He served as police court judge, was a Master Mason receiving his fifty year pin in February 1971, and a charter member of the Chino Valley Historical Society. He was a great booster of the annual pioneer picnic which was conducted in the city park on numerous occasions.

In his younger days he managed the town baseball team, often paying expenses out of his own pocket. He later promoted weekly dances for the town at the Knights of Pythias Hall.

Jim Reher succumbed to old age in May 1971, a stranger to newcomers, but a friend to countless others who knew of his part as a dedicated citizen who helped build and perpetuate a new city.