

City of Chino ❖ Hall of Fame

presented on May 14, 2008 honoring

Jesner Sholander

Jesner Sholander was a lifelong resident, teacher, expert mechanic, youth leader and a community member who contributed to the growth and advancement of his hometown.

Born in Des Moines, Iowa in May 1890, Jesner's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sholander, brought him to Chino at the age of one. His grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Sholander, residents of Chino, were early Swedish pioneer farmers and church people. Jesner attended the old brick schoolhouse at 10th and B Streets, but dropped out at the age of 16 to go to work in the sugar beet factory, eventually becoming a mechanic until the factory closed in 1917. He went to work for the school district, assigned to build its first regular motor-powered school buses.

Although he never went to high school, Mr. Sholander was encouraged to get his teaching credential, based on his work experience and three summers of college work. He was the first machine shop instructor at Chino High, teaching for 28 years before retiring in 1950. His work background helped him steer many of his students into good jobs, for which they were forever grateful.

Mr. Sholander was a charter member of the Chino Junior Fair Association and served as board member for many years. He took an active part in 4-H and Future Farmers activities, escorting members on field trips and to camp. After his retirement, he became caretaker and grounds manager at the fairgrounds. A former fair board president remembers him as a tireless worker and very talented individual.

He was a president of the board of trustees of the First Methodist church and honored there for his contributions. In retirement, he farmed 20 acres with walnuts and chickens on the east side of town. With his mechanical ability he built parts for various Chino local and state fair displays. In 1958 he was named Outstanding Chino Citizen of the Year by the American Legion Post #299, and in 1966 he was presented the Alf Brown trophy, a perpetual trophy presented annually to an outstanding Chino Lions Club member.

He and his wife Etta had one son, Robert, and two grandsons. Mr. Sholander died May 9, 1985, a week short of his 95th birthday.