

City of Chino ❖ Hall of Fame

presented on April 5, 2011 honoring

Levi H. Dickey

Levi H. Dickey was a very important member of the Chino community. He was a school superintendent and a civic leader during his 38 years with the school district and in his retirement. He was innovative in education and a role model for students and athletes. He had a reputation for honesty; vision; strictness; and inspiration that left a mark on both youth and fellow citizens. He was known as a gentleman in every way.

Born in Alveda, Ohio, in 1904, he lived in California beginning at age 6. He attended La Verne College, (which would later be known as the University of La Verne), where he met Rose Landis, who would become his wife after he received his masters degree at USC. He came to the Chino schools in 1926 as a math and science teacher and basketball coach. His varsity teams won several league championships and participated in CIF playoffs, winning the division championship in 1942.

Mr. Dickey was Chino's first Recreation Director and helped organize the Chino Recreation Association. Mr. Dickey organized and ran, with the assistance of the 20-30 Club, Chino's famed Invitational Basketball Tournament annually. He served as Principal of Chino High School.

Mr. Dickey spent World War II as an officer in the Navy, and upon his return was named Superintendent of Chino Unified School District. He directed the first major growth of the schools after the war, and the desegregation of D Street School.

Upon retirement as Superintendent in 1960, he became Director of Adult Education until 1964. He was active in the Naval Reserve for many years, retiring with the rank of Commander.

Mr. Dickey held the high Silver Beaver award for his contributions to Boy Scouts, where he spent 40 years in volunteer work. A member of Chino Rotary Club since 1938, he became club President and its first District Governor, in 1961. He was active in the La Verne Church of the Brethren, member of the Masonic Lodge, and in retirement headed local and state units of the Wally Byam Caravan Club. He was a member of the San Bernardino County Museum Committee, and a founder/first President of the Chino Valley Historical Society.

Levi and Rose had two sons, Glen and Larry, the latter who preceded him in death. The couple celebrated their 50th anniversary in the year before Mr. Dickey's death on March 31, 1979, after they moved to the Hillcrest Homes in La Verne.

One of his student athletes, Ruben S. Ayala, who later became a California State Senator, said "he instilled in me the burning desire to excel in any endeavor I chose to pursue. I got from him a desire to be No.1."