

City of Chino ❖ Hall of Fame

presented on April 28, 2004 honoring

Adolph M. Whitney

Adolph M. Whitney was a self-made man and unabashed individualist. From his beginnings as an immigrant boy who arrived in steerage, to a leader in the San Bernardino County dairy industry, he was an important contributor to the preservation of Chino's history.

Born Adolph Yarolimek on February 22, 1893 in Czechoslovakia, he attended Nebraska State Agricultural College, then went into the dairy business in that state, taking the surname of his wife, Florence Whitney, when they were married in 1916.

Hit by hard times and bovine tuberculosis in 1922, and virtually penniless, he brought his wife and three children to California the same year. Soon he went to work for the fledgling San Bernardino County Cow Testing Association, stressing lessons he learned the hard way in Nebraska in boosting the quality of milk on the county's dairies. His hard work and demand for "clean milk" methods became legendary.

In 1925 he obtained his own dairy, and in 1930 established the Royal Dairy on five acres on East Riverside Drive. It was considered one of the most modern in the United States.

Once he retired, approximately thirty years later, he turned to community service. He devised and successfully campaigned for the San Bernardino County uniform house numbering system used today. Using this, Whitney created a Chino map long used by the Chamber of Commerce. He also had a hand in restoring area historical sites.

For Chino's Diamond Jubilee in 1962, he became a one-man committee, putting together in two short months a book of historical recollections by pioneer residents, now long out-of-print but still in great demand. He was instrumental in obtaining the old East Side Thimble Club for the new Chino Valley Historical Society.

Mr. Whitney was a long-time member of Rotary, the Chino Masonic Lodge, the Al Malikah Shriners, and the Ontario Elks, acted as District Deputy Grand Master of the Independent Order of Foresters (IOOF), and was a Life Member of the Historical Society.

With a single-minded taste for self-sufficiency, he also had a big heart and a soft spot for anyone he considered to be pulling their own weight, yet might need a helping hand. His name should remain an important part of Chino's heritage - - - he had the soul of a life-long farmer and was proud that he had made the American dream come true.