

City of Chino ❖ Hall of Fame

presented on April 12, 2000 honoring

Edwin Rhodes

When it was decided to establish an annual Community Service Award, it was done in the name of Edwin Rhodes, one of the most unsung but prominent leaders in Chino's history.

Edwin Rhodes was an Illinois farm boy who saw opportunity in the west. He arrived in Chino in 1890 as a printer for Richard Gird's Chino Valley Champion. A year later he succeeded John Wasson as editor.

His was not an easy lot while he was in charge of the paper. Times here hard, seasons were dry, crops were poor, and the outlook for Chino was far from being bright. Many a less determined man would have become discouraged and forsaken the field, but Mr. Rhodes always had faith in the future of Chino and pulled the paper through until better days came and prosperity returned. In 1896, when Gird's fortunes were declining, Mr. Rhodes bought the paper and published it until 1906, when he sold it and helped establish Chino's first bank.

Edwin Rhodes probably had more to do with the civic advancement of the town of Chino than any other person. He was on the city incorporation committee and served as the elected City Treasurer for 37 years. He was a member of the School Board, helped from various local organizations including the Chino Masonic Lodge, and served as Justice of the Peace. He was chairman of the Planning Commission and the local Red Cross. He helped create and headed the first board of Casa Colina Rehabilitation Center when it was founded near the present Boys Republic. Mr. Rhodes left us, as a legacy, a history entitled Break of Day in Chino. Today's Chino owes him a great deal for his dedicated service to the community's development, as it does to all those who will subsequently receive the Community Service Award which bears his name.