

City of Chino ❖ Hall of Fame

presented on May 15, 2018 honoring

E. J. Marshall

Edwin Jessop Marshall, known as E. J., was a Southern California financier who rescued Chino from the bankruptcy confronting Chino's founder Richard Gird at the turn of the 20th Century when the real estate boom collapsed and Mr. Gird became over extended.

A native of Dulaney Valley, Maryland, born on March 18, 1860, Mr. Marshall struck out on his own at age 15 and went to work in the railroad industry. An enterprising young man, he went on to sheep ranching in Texas, then into oil and the creation of the Texas Company, known as Texaco. He also started working for a bank, which was Marshall's first calling, and remained there for 17 years and rose to be its president.

After his first wife died after only a couple years of marriage, he married Sallie McLemore of Galveston, Texas, in 1892. Their only child, Marcus, was born the following year. Due to their son's health problems, Mrs. Marshall and Marcus went to California around 1900, while Marshall organized Texaco.

On New Year's Day 1904, Marshall arrived in California to join his family, and had a job waiting for him as Vice President of Southwestern National Bank. His interest in continuing his ranching enterprise led to the purchase of three ranches in Santa Barbara County. One of the ranches eventually became part of Vandenburg Air Force Base. Marshall had thousands of acres in cultivation, including a thousand leased to sugar beets. Marshall was one of the main investors in the 1904 acquisition of Rancho Santa Ana del Chino when Richard Gird went bankrupt, amounting to 46,000 acres. In exchange for retiring the debt on the Gird lands, Marshall acquired the Chino Ranch Holdings and Water Company. In 1905, the acquisition was finalized and a new version of the company was inaugurated as the Chino Land and Water Company. Marshall made much of his fortune on land speculation and sold the last of his Texaco stock in 1906.

The new Chino Land and Water Company aggressively marketed the ranch and sold off significant sections of it, which further developed the township of Chino. Marshall helped land owners who purchased by contract from Gird. He cleaned up the titles and gave deeds to those who completed their payments. Marshall was also the Director of Edison Electric Company and had the company run electric lines to Chino to supply the ranches with power. During that time, irrigation was largely increased by Marshall with new electric power pumps.

Marshall gave the land on Central Avenue between Chino Avenue and D Street for a new City park, along with money to improve it. In recognition of the part he played in Chino's development, the old D Street School at Monte Vista Avenue and D Street was named for him, and when this school was closed down, the name was transferred to the new school at Telephone and Philadelphia Avenues.

At one time, Mr. Marshall was known as one of the largest ranch owners and cattle raisers in the nation. By 1913, he was a director of 30 companies, including several based in Los Angeles where he lived. In 1915, the family relocated to Pasadena, where he resided until his death on March 4, 1937.