

City of Chino ❖ Hall of Fame

presented on March 18, 2014 honoring

Elmer Carl Jertberg

Elmer Carl Jertberg, a pioneer son, prominent citizen, and a key figure in the community from his youth as a store apprentice through his retirement as a Deputy County Assessor.

He was noted for his leadership with veteran's organizations and in the business community. He was one of the organizers of the Chino American Legion Post 299 after World War I; and later, the local World War I Barracks for senior veterans.

A native of Springfield, Missouri, born February 14, 1892, he came to Chino in 1902 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jertberg, who were part of the Swedish community which settled in Chino. There were seven children in all.

At age 11, young Elmer went to work in the general store of George Holcomb, and then operated his own haberdashery and cleaning shop prior to volunteering for the Army. Mr. Jertberg was the first local man to see action in World War I, as a runner in the Second Division's 4th Machine Gun Battalion. Upon his return, he went into partnership with Mr. Holcomb at their general store, a longtime fixture at Sixth and D Streets.

Elmer married Mary Schneider in 1919. There were five surviving children at the time of his death in 1983. Mr. and Mrs. Jertberg had 21 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

In 1924, Mr. Jertberg helped organize the American Legion Post and was chosen as its first Commander. Subsequently, he served as Post Finance Officer for 45 years. In 1925, his wife Mrs. Mary Jertberg was instrumental in the organization of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit for Chino, and served as its first president. In 1925, he became a charter member of the Chino Rotary Club.

Active in the business community, Mr. Jertberg was President of the Chamber of Commerce in 1935, and a Director of the old Chino Building and Loan Association.

In 1954, Mr. Jertberg was named Chino's Outstanding Citizen; and in 1961, Mr. Veteran of the Year for San Bernardino County, where he was a Commander of the United Veterans of the Republic. In 1968, he was recognized by the National Conference of Christians and Jews with its Regional Brotherhood Citation. Mr. Jertberg was a member of St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church and active in the Knights of Columbus.

In 1959, Mr. Jertberg retired after 28 years of service with the County Assessor's Office, where he was a Supervisor and headed the West End offices.

At his death on April 5, 1983, the Chino Champion said he had been a respected citizen and was a "lover of life, who left a backlog of young friends."