

City of Chino ❖ Hall of Fame

presented on March 21, 2001 honoring

Margaret Brewer Fowler

Margaret Fowler, philanthropist and part-time resident of Chino Valley during the first half of the 20th century, founded California Junior Republic, now Boys Republic. Upon her death she gave her imposing Chino country house for the establishment of Casa Colina Convalescent Home for Crippled Children.

Mrs. Fowler was born in San Francisco of a prominent family. She was widowed fairly young, having been married to a wealthy lumber man and industrialist, and she devoted the rest of her life and money to social causes, including education and youth in need. She was a person of strong individuality, and of aesthetic and artistic tastes. Her interests included the Claremont Colleges and seats on the Scripps College Trustees and the YWCA national board of directors.

Modeled after a New York boy's institution, the non-profit, nonsectarian California Junior Republic was founded in 1907 in San Fernando Valley, with an initial grant of \$10,000 from Mrs. Fowler. Shortly thereafter she purchased the 211-acre site in Chino Valley and provided funds for the first buildings of the farm-school home for troubled youth.

Her spacious residence on a knoll on the southeast side of the property was provided, on her death in 1931, for the first home of Casa Colina, soon to be recognized nationally.

Mrs. Fowler's legacy lies in her lifetime commitment to social responsibilities and citizenship, traits that are at the basis of the continuing Boys Republic program.