

City of Chino ❖ Hall of Fame

presented on June 1, 2005 honoring

Ralph C. Homan

Ralph C. Homan, 1880-1941. As an important community leader in Chino from 1904 until his death in 1941, Ralph C. Homan served as merchant, newspaper publisher, banker, city attorney, justice of the peace, and school board member.

He brought the first electric lights to Chino, enlarged the Chino Champion, served as building and loan president and was one of the organizers of the Chino Basin Water Protective Association. In 1909, he drafted the bylaws for the new Board of Trade that spurred the city incorporation movement. In 1923, he was president of the Chamber of Commerce.

“The influence he wielded through his long career here will long remain felt by the community,” said the Champion editor upon Mr. Homan’s death. “He served his community honestly and successfully.”

Mr. Homan was born in Kansas in 1880 and taught school before he came to California. In Chino he joined his father, R. S. Homan, in the mercantile business at the corner of Sixth and D Streets at the age of 21. In 1909, he bought the Chino Champion, bought new equipment to increase the size and installed the paper’s first mechanical typesetter. He used a two-horsepower gasoline engine to create electrical power for his press, using the surplus to give the city its first electrical lights, which remained on until 9:00 p.m. and later on special occasions.

He was elected justice of the peace for the Chino Township in 1910, a position that required more common sense than legal training. While still publishing the Champion, he studied law and was admitted to the state bar in 1916. Because of the pressure of his legal work and other community activities, he sold the Champion in 1920. He subsequently became city attorney. In 1927, he helped start and was later president of the Chino Building and Loan Association.

Organizations he was involved in included the Methodist Church, Master of the Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, Knights of Pythias, and Rotary Club.

Mr. Homan married Champion typesetter Alma Moore in 1904. Later in his life he was plagued by asthma, which led to his early death at the age of 61. Besides his wife, he left a son and daughter.