

# City of Chino ♦ Hall of Fame

presented on April 4, 2007 honoring

## *Robert A. Condee*

Robert A. Condee was a Boys Republic official who gained statewide recognition and honor for Chino with his agricultural knowledge and expertise. He was born in San Diego on Christmas Day in 1875, graduated in 1892 from the University of California School of Agriculture, and engaged in farming for the next four years. He served as Clerk of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors from 1897 to 1900 and, the following year, became a State Inspector of Horticulture prior to serving as the State Director of Agricultural Education.

Mr. Condee was Director of Agriculture at the California Junior Republic (Boys Republic) and Principal of the vocational high school there from 1914 to 1930. During that time he served as President of the State Agricultural Society (Board of Agriculture), President of the State Fair Board of Directors, Director of the California Holstein Association, President of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, a Director of the State Chamber of Commerce, and an ex-officio member of the University of California Board of Regents. In 1924, Governor Friend W. Richardson and his wife were overnight guests at the Condee's home, during which time the Governor toured the Chino Valley.

Locally Mr. Condee was the charter President of the Chino Rotary Club in 1925, and a member of the local Masonic Lodge. He "was Chino's most widely known citizen," according to Elmer L. Howell, publisher of the Chino Champion.

The Champion eulogized: "Chino has lost its most honored citizen and the state a man who has gone further toward building California agriculturally than any other."

When Mr. Condee died of a heart attack on October 4, 1930, while still serving at Junior Republic, Governor C.C. Young, who had planned to appoint him to another 4-year term on the State Board of Agricultural, said "no man in official life in California has ever rendered a more faithful and unselfish public service. I have never known a truer or finer type of citizen than Robert A. Condee."

At his death he left his wife Mae of Chino, and two children.