

City of Chino ❖ Hall of Fame

presented on April 3, 2002 honoring

W.J. (Bill) Tebo

Bill Tebo, 1866-1941, a pioneer rancher, lawman and businessman. When the rugged pioneers who settled in Chino Valley are mentioned, W.J. (Bill) Tebo stands tall among them, despite his short stature.

A native of Canada, he was one of the first to buy farmland property when the old Chino rancho of early Californian Antonio Maria Lugo was put on the market by Richard Gird. He was the first resident and one of the first to build a home on a Chino town lot. He was a leader in the Chino incorporation movement, and was a charter member of the Board of Trustees (City Council), serving 12 years. He was an active church member, lodge officer and Rotarian.

However, it was as a lawman that Bill Tebo became widely known throughout the area for his persistence in bringing criminals to justice. He was wounded more than once, but never failed to “get his man,” according to his obituary.

Mr. Tebo first served as deputy sheriff and constable for the County and Township, a position he assumed in 1904 when Fred Bristol was killed. He repeatedly served as constable until his death in 1941. His beat was the entire valley, and he proved more than a match for rustlers, gunmen, thieves, moonshiners and other miscreants, and received backing all the way from his wife Allie, who participated with him in the social affairs of the community.

He was born July 22, 1866 in Iroquois, Ontario Province, and educated in public schools there. At 17 he moved to Iowa where he farmed two years and met his wife. In 1887 they came to Chino Valley where the farm acreage and townsite had just been mapped.

Eventually he operated 1,500 acres, including 320 in the hills that were leased for oil drilling. When he died April 2, 1941, Mayor Ernie Soper declared that the hours of his funeral be set aside as a period of mourning, and all business houses and City Hall closed their doors in respect.