

# Chino schools needed 'exaggeration' to get their start

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If the widow Carlyle could see the number of Chino schools today, she'd probably chuckle at the joke on Chino's early settlers. In 1862 Joe Bridger, manager of part of the old Chino ranch, exaggerated the number of children Mrs. Carlyle had on a county census so the Chino area could qualify for a teacher and a school.

Today, Chino has no problems coming up with enough students to qualify for new schools. This year, Chino opened three new schools, bringing its total to 22. At least three more schools are in the planning stages, and school planners are looking at least 10 more school sites, primarily in the Chino Hills.

The first school in the Chino area was Rincon School, is believed to have been held in 1864 in the present Prado Dam area, southwest of Chino. In 1887 the Pioneer School was built to serve farm families in the southeast portion of the ranch.

The County Board of Supervisors established the Chino school district in February 1866, beginning at the southeast point of Jurupa district and running southwest to the Los Angeles County and north to the road leading from San Jose to San Salvador.

In March 1874, a new district was formed out of the western portion of the Chino district. It was known as the "New Chino School District."

In January 1878, the Rincon District was formed out of another portion of the original Chino District.

## Boundaries

Richard Gird, founder of Chino, had furnished the schoolroom and teacher, prepared to build a permanent school. That October the new schoolhouse, built to accommodate 80 pupils, opened on the southeast corner of Fifth and D Streets. It later became known as the "Pig Pen" because of the high board fence around it which separated the boys from the girls during recess.

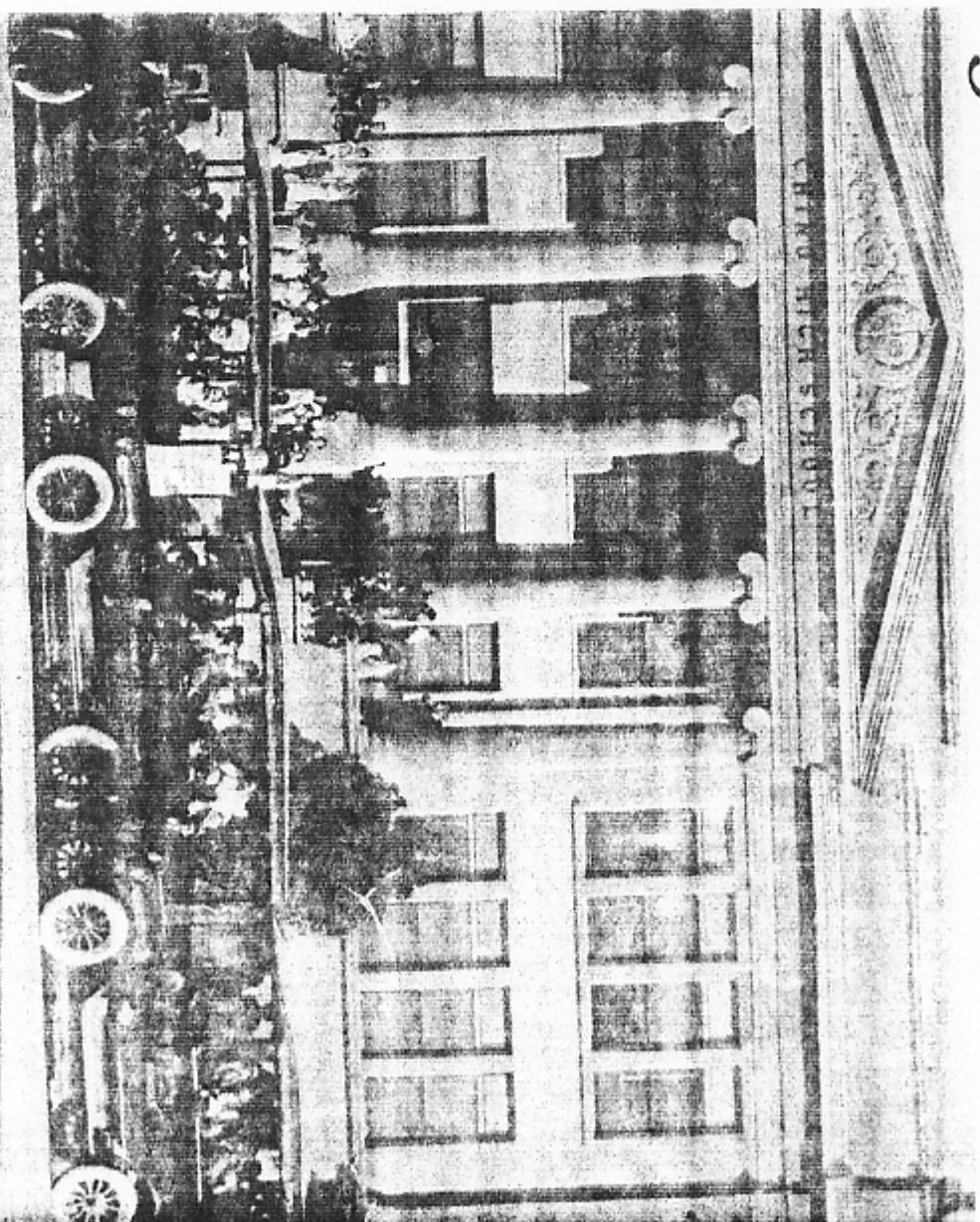
When the sugar beet factory came to town, the increase in Chino's population put pressure on school space. Students began sitting two to a seat and the school was eventually enlarged. A store opposite a park on D Street was rented to handle the overflow. By 1891, there were 169 children attending. One room school houses were opened east and west of town.

## Enrollment hits 373

In 1894, enrollment had reached 373 students and eight teachers.

In August 1894 the Girds and the sugar beet company built the new Central School at 10th and B Streets for \$12,000. The two-story brick building had four classrooms, a library, a principal's office and a large ornate bell tower.

That same year the Pig Pen school building was soon moved to 10th and B Streets. It later served as a domestic science and manual training building for the future high school, still later became the meeting house of the East Side Thimble Club and is now Chino's Old Schoolhouse



**STATELY SCHOOL** — This photo, taken in the late 1920s, is of Chino High School when it was located on the north side of River-

school. The building was renamed the Richard Gird School that year and the high school was soon accredited by the University

side Drive at the head of Sixth Street. Chino's first fleet of school buses is parked out front. The old high school was declared

The new three story school with Corinthian columns in front opened in November 1909. It had nine classrooms, an

unsafe and razed in 1933, the same year as the Long Beach earthquake. It was later replaced by a one-story building, that even-

auditorium, lunch room, teachers' lounge, gymnasium, and offices. To meet the "modern" standards of the day,

tually became part of the present district administration site and Buena Vista Continuation High School.

access to the office. The old brick school became an elementary-only facility. In 1912 a \$10,000 bond

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