

# **Horace & Myrtle Chambers**

Horace and Myrtle moved to Eloy from Texas and Arkansas, respectively They were married in Florence on December 2, 1939. From 1941 to 1945, they owned and operated a self-help laundry on Main Street. In 1947, they opened the Chambers Department Store, which served the Eloy community for over 55 years. During that time, they raised four children who attended the Eloy Elementary School, SCVUHS and the University of Arizona. Horace passed away in 2005 and Myrtle now lives in Tucson.

## **Special Honors**

Horace and Myrtle were honored as Life Members of the National Registry of Who's Who in Executives and Professionals.

## **Service Organizations**

Myrtle served extensively on Eloy civic and professional organizations including: Eloy Chamber of Commerce; Eloy Red Cross (Vice Chairperson); Eloy Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary (President); Eloy Development Corporation (Treasurer); Eloy Schools PTA; VFW Women's Auxiliary (President); Eloy Municipal Board; American Cancer Society; and the Cotton Bucks Club (Vice President).

Horace served as well: Eloy Chamber of Commerce and a Charter Member of the Eloy Volunteer Fire Department where he served some years as Assistant Fire Chief and was the final charter member to retire after over 25 years of service. He also served in the Civilian Conservation Corps and in the US Army during World War II.

## **SCVUHS Service**

The Chambers' commitment to education was manifested early and often. Myrtle devoted extensive time to the Eloy PTA and to extra curricula activities and functions for grade schoolers. Their concern for education bore fruit in their children, two of whom were SCVUHS valedictorians and a third who finished third in class. They also actively supported the SCVUHS Whirlwind and numerous fund drives and functions with ads, donations, supplies and space. In addition, Myrtle wrote numerous letters of recommendation for alumni supporting applications for scholarship, for University admission and for work.

Of special note is the Chambers' seminal efforts in the creation and functioning of the Eloy Development Corporation with its thoughtful objectives of developing industry and providing employment opportunities for SCVUHS alumni and other Eloy residents amid dwindling farm employment. Such development was essential if Eloy was to retain substantial numbers of its youthful citizens and provide a base for further growth and development. The effort was successful in providing hundreds of jobs over the past 35 years though much more needs to be done to provide meaningful opportunity for the community. Current community leaders might productively use this model for future efforts to provide meaningful development. It is noted that the Chambers' were the largest supporters of the Corporation and that Myrtle served throughout as the Corporation's only Treasurer.