

June 27, 2011

## Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

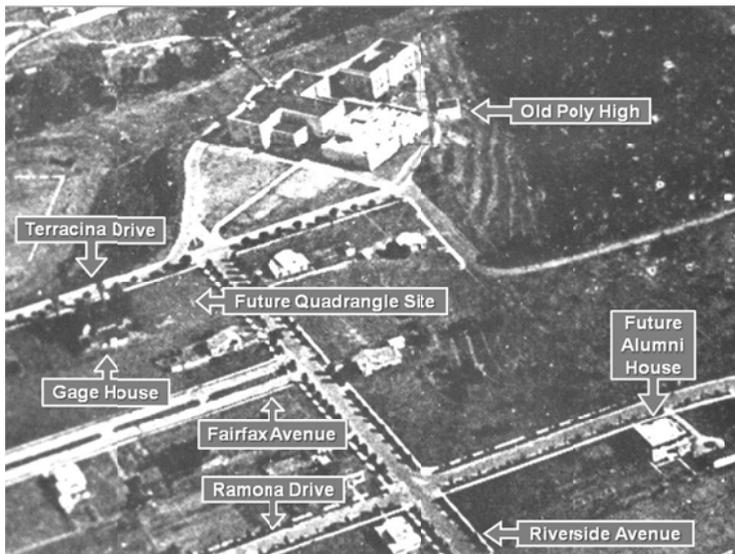
In this age of satellite aerial photography and the internet, it's easy to see what's going on in your neighbor's backyard. But back in the early twentieth century it was a rare treat to get a birds-eye view of a location. The undated photograph below appears in Gilbert Jimenez and Tom Johnson's "Riverside City College 1916-1981 A 65 Year History". Since it is known that the home that later became the RCCD Alumni House was built in 1917 and construction of Riverside Junior College's Quadrangle didn't begin until September 26, 1923, the photograph was most likely taken between those years.

Among the things to look for in the photo below are:

- 1.) Old Poly High, which housed the first Riverside Junior College classes. In the mid 1960's it was purchased and demolished by the Riverside Junior College District so that the college could expand. This area is now the site of the MLK Jr. High Tech Center, the Physical / Life Science Buildings and the Bradshaw Student Center.
- 2.) Terracina Avenue, which even in this photo had its distinctive curve to the right then left to reach the lower elevation.
- 3.) The Gage House, which was purchased in the fall of 1921 and housed the first college classes separate from the high school.
- 4.) The future site of the Quadrangle. At this time it was mostly empty with the exception of a few structures.
- 5.) Fairfax Avenue which was already divided by a grassy median strip.
- 6.) The Alabaster House (future RCCD Alumni House), was purchased by the district in 1999. It's interesting to note that the Alumni House and the home on the southwest corner of Riverside Avenue and Ramona Drive, are apparently the only structures in the photo still standing.

Next week, a look a 1935 aerial photograph of the college.

It is 4 years and 37 weeks until RCC's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on March 13, 2016.



The Riverside City College Instructional Media Center is bringing you this five year countdown to RCC's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Our intention is to give everyone a weekly glance at the many people and events that have been a part of the college.

Our thanks go to the RCC Digital Library Archives and the District's Office of Strategic Communications and Relations for allowing us to use their photo and newspaper collections. Thanks as well to all of the RCC students and Faculty Advisors that were a part of the yearbook and newspaper staffs. Thanks also to Tom Johnson and Gilbert Jimenez who wrote "the book" about RCC's history. "Riverside City College 1916-1981- A 65 Year History" is available in the RCC Digital Library.

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