

October 10, 2011

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Two years after its inception, Riverside Junior College graduated its first group of students, the Class of 1918. No photographs of this commencement ceremony have surfaced but the 1919 yearbook carried the following account of the event. It was written by Helen N. Hale (RJC Vice President of the Sophomore Class).

A rustle! A drawing aside the curtains of time. Behold! the stadium, the bleachers, the hillside crowded with spectators. In the center a low platform, seats arranged on either side, in bleacher style, tier above tier, the whole decorated with flags and green plants. Upon the platform, Messrs. Wheelock, Davidson, Taylor, Law, and Dr. Silas Evans, the honorable President of Occidental College and distinguished speaker of the day.

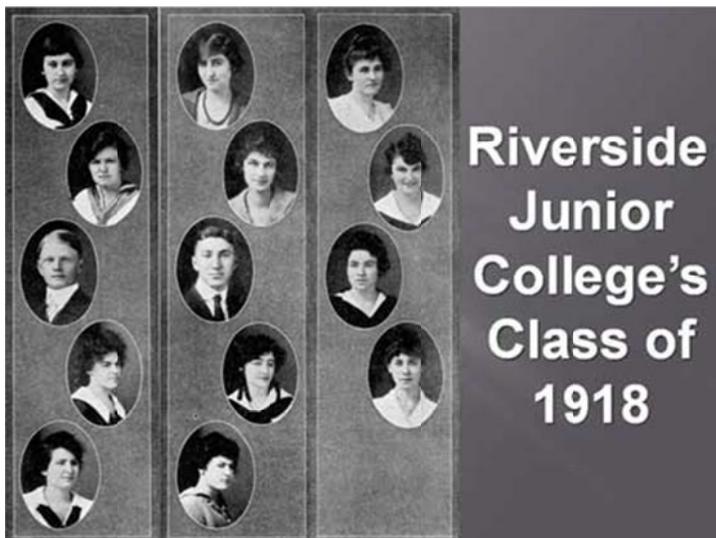
Soon from the distance, the military strains of the High School Band. Then a long line of fair, white-robed maidens followed by the boys of the class in their cadet uniforms, giving a military air to the scene. Last, twelve young maidens in fluffy white, carrying arm bouquets of lavender and purple, and the two cadets. These fourteen are the graduating class of the Riverside Junior College.

Diplomas awarded, the curtain falls! And lo! It was twelve long months ago all this happened.

HELEN N. HALE

One member of this first graduating class would return to teach Spanish at Riverside Poly High School and Riverside Junior College from 1921 to 1961. More about that individual next week.

It is 4 years and 22 weeks until RCC's 100th Anniversary on March 13, 2016.



The Riverside City College Instructional Media Center is bringing you this five year countdown to RCC's 100th 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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