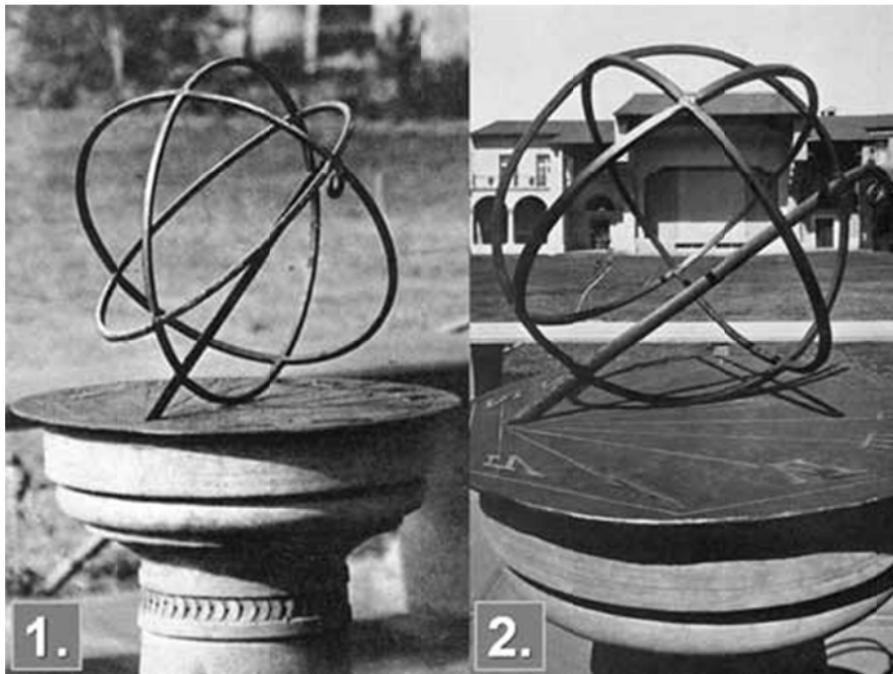


October 31, 2011

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

It's Monday October 31, 2011, Halloween. On this date, one can be forgiven if thoughts gravitate towards the "supernatural". One begins to speculate if there are any "ghost stories" connected with the Riverside City College Quadrangle? It's not a stretch to contemplate a connection between Halloween and RCC because the college's school colors (orange and black) are the two colors most associated with the holiday. Further, the college's mascot (the Tiger), certainly strikes fear into opponents of RCC's athletic teams, especially the Football team which this past Saturday extended its win streak to 16 games. Or pity the opponents of the RCC Women's Water Polo team which won the 2010 California Community College State Championship title and recently ran off a 52-match win streak. Dr. H. Vincent Moses, former Riverside Metropolitan Museum Director, said in an interview, "I don't know if there's any 'haunting' stories, whether A.G. Paul still roams around the Quad or not." But with a bit of imagination and scratching beneath the surface of the Quad, one can conjure up the story of a "disappearing object" (and I'm not talking about "Charlie the Owl").

A sundial has been a part of the Quadrangle since the 1920s. In 1923, Edmund C. Jaeger (Professor of Biology 1922-52) suggested to one of his classes that they raise money for a timekeeper which they did. This first sundial soon vanished from the Quad. At the time, the sundial's disappearance was not attributed to some sinister supernatural spirit. It was blamed on another type of spirit, a misguided "school spirit". You see the original sundial turned up missing after a football game with a rival college. Upset by this blatant vandalism, A.G. Paul (Principal-Director-President 1920-1950) arranged with a local iron worker to construct a new instrument and vandal-proof pedestal. This second sundial can be seen below in photos one and two from 1930s era Tequesquite yearbooks.



At a later undetermined date, a third sundial made its appearance. When the Quadrangle was dedicated to A.G. Paul in the 1980s, this sun dial received a new pedestal. Photo three shows

how it appeared on that day. After the 2005-7 renovation of the Quad, it also received a new location (the northwest interior corner). Photo four shows how it looked this morning (October 31st 2011).



What's that you say? Something has disappeared? Yes, the “gnomon” has vanished! For those of you not in the know, the “gnomon” is the part of the sundial that casts the shadow indicating the time of day. It has been missing for a period of time. Was it A.G. Paul expressing his disapproval of the changes to his Quad? Was the sundial again a victim of vandalism? Or is it something as mundane as it being out for repairs. Sometimes it's more fun to speculate than to know the actual truth.

It is 4 years and 19 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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