

December 12, 2011

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

The Christmas (a.k.a. Winter) Formal was once one of the top social events of the Riverside City College. The dance was held on an almost yearly basis between the 1930s and the 1960s. It usually took place in the Music Room of the Mission Inn but occasionally was held in the Riverside Municipal Auditorium. Students and Faculty would don their finest apparel dancing to big band music and snacking on the goodies provided. But the Faculty attending weren't there just to dance; they served the more important purpose of chaperoning the event. Even A.G. Paul (RJC Principal-Director-President 1920-1950) was called upon to chaperone as can be seen in one of the photos below. What follows is a description of the 1940 event from the 1941 Tequesquite yearbook:

*With wobbling knees, tattered survivors of the three day siege of finals tottered to the Municipal Auditorium the night of Wednesday December 18. Despite exhausted minds and bodies, the true festive spirit bubbled over the polished floor. The sweet music of Charles Koelsche's ensemble soothed well the weary tiger. Behind the orchestra a huge snowman and his wintry surroundings formed a gay backdrop. Clever dance programs, colorful balloons, the mystic half light, delicious punch, and smiling chaperones combined with the music and decorations in a smooth blend of forgetful bliss.*

Photos one and two show the dances of 1935 and 1937. Both were held in the Music Room of the Mission Inn.



Photos three and four illustrate the 1940 event held in the Riverside Municipal Auditorium. In photo four, A.G. Paul can be seen serving as a chaperone.



It is 4 years and 13 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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