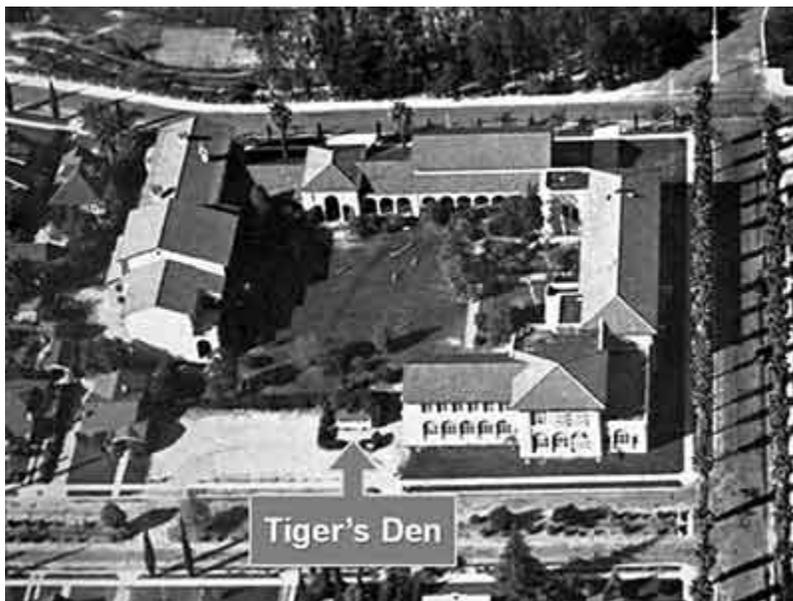


October 15, 2012

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

When Riverside City College's Tigers Den served its final student in 2005 (prior to the 2005-7 Quadrangle renovation) it ended a campus tradition that had existed by that name since 1931. Back in the 1920s Riverside Poly High's former Botany greenhouse was moved into the Riverside Junior College Quadrangle where it was used for lectures and lab work. In late 1924 it became a bookstore where some food and candy were sold. In 1925 two campus organizations (the AWS and the YW) combined forces in an effort to give the students of RJC a lunchroom on the campus. It was first located in the center of the Quad, and then moved in 1927 in the vicinity of the Outdoor Stage. In September 1931 it was moved again, this time to the approximate location of the Quad's present day Fairfax Avenue southern entrance. At this time, it assumed the name "The Tiger's Den". This location can be seen in the aerial photo below from the 1939 "*Tequesquite*" yearbook.



The two photos below (from the 1941 "*Tequesquite*" yearbook) show exterior and interior views of the original Tiger's Den. Note the sign in the upper photo that reads "*If you don't buy anything, at least try our FREE WATER*". The lower photo shows the student workers manning the counter. Note the 1940s era pin-up behind them on the wall.



By post war 1947, the student population at the college was booming and the size the old Tigers Den was inadequate to meet the demand. Also construction was about to begin on the southwest corner of the Quadrangle and the Tigers Den was located right in the construction zone. Something had to give. It was decided to set up the backstage area of the Outdoor Theatre as a temporary solution until the new Tiger's Den was opened next to "The Pit". So the old Tigers Den was closed after serving students more than 20 years. The new Tiger's Den would feed starving RCC students for over 50 years and become one of the preferred social gathering places of the college, but that is a tale to be told another time. The photo below is from the 1943 *"Tequesquite"* yearbook showing *"The Tiger's Den"* in during its war-time days.



It is 3 years and 21 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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