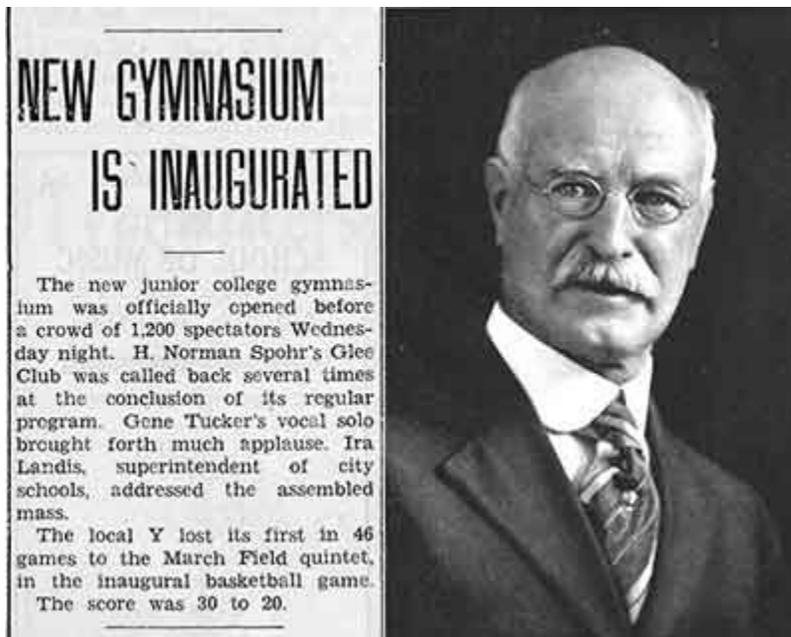


October 29, 2012

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

On the evening of Thursday November 1, 1928, a ceremony will be held in the newly renovated Wheelock Gymnasium for this year's inductees into the Riverside City College Athletic Hall of Fame. That event will be the first night the college publically celebrates the reopening of the historic gym. The gym was completed and occupied almost 84 years to the day on November 6, 1928. It was constructed using RJC and Riverside Poly High 1926 bond issue money. Oddly enough, the gym did not become commonly known as "*Wheelock Gym*" until almost 40 years later in the mid-1960s. In 1937, the field and the football stadium (but not the gym) were named after retired Superintendent of Riverside District Schools Arthur N. Wheelock. Wheelock had been an enormous influence on the development of Riverside's public school system from 1892 to 1941. The dedication of the field and stadium took place at the college's June Commencement ceremonies. A surviving memorial facing Magnolia Avenue, built in 1939, once bore the legend "*Wheelock Field*". Although the Gym was used by both Riverside Poly High and the college, it was regularly referred to as the "*High School Gym*". It did not begin to be officially called "*Wheelock Gym*" until Poly High departed in 1964 and it became the sole property of the college district.

Below left is an article printed in the November 23, 1928 issue of "The Arroyo" student newspaper. It told of the official opening of the gym which drew a crowd of 1,200 spectators. The first basketball game, played that night, was between teams from March Field and the local YMCA. March Field won the game by a score of 30 to 20. Below right is a photograph of A.N. Wheelock for whom the gym was eventually named.



Below is a photograph of the newly opened gymnasium. The buildings above it are old Riverside Poly High. The high school occupied this land until 1964 when it moved to its new campus and the college took over the property.



Below is a current view of Wheelock Gymnasium. Visually, the most prominent survivor of the renovation is the decorative tile that surrounded the original gym entrance. This tile can be seen in the center of the building at ground level in both the black & white and color photos. Above the gym, the land is now occupied by the former Life and Physical Science buildings, Student Center and the Martin Luther King Jr. High Tech Center.



It is 3 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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