

November 19, 2012

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

It's Thanksgiving week, when everyone's thoughts gravitate towards turkey on Thursday and Black Friday bargains the next day. But in the November 22, 1929 issue of Riverside Junior College's "Arroyo" student newspaper, an unnamed editorialist wrote about what RJC students should be thankful for. To put it in historical perspective, it is useful to remember that this was written not even a month after the "Black Tuesday" October 29, 1929 stock market crash that triggered the "Great Depression".

THE ARROYO	
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## EDITORIAL

### THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving day is, with the exception of Christmas, the oldest holiday on our calendar.

As that day is just about due, we cannot help wondering how many of us enjoy the day in the manner that we should. Without a doubt, a large number of the students find that the only things to be thankful for are the two day's vacation and the wonderful table that they will sit down to next Thursday. But just try looking around a bit and see the many things for which we have to be truly thankful.

In the writer's mind, foremost among these things is the place in which we live. We are in a region that boasts of some of the most even temperature in the world. When the other states are having blizzards, cold spells, and storms, with the thermometer well below zero, California has what might be called true summer weather. In the winter time, we have all kinds of resorts, from Mount Baldy in the deep snow to Balboa, where one may go swimming the year round.

But to get closer to home. We wonder just how many of the four hundred students enrolled here realize the privilege that is theirs. We are enabled, without leaving home, to get an education that is scarcely equalled by the first two years of most of the larger colleges. In the larger universities, students must sit in classes with a hundred or more members, while here, the average class consists of twenty-five to thirty, and thus the students have the benefit of the instructors' individual attention.

These are only a few of the things for which we have to be thankful. So when you begin to get down in the mouth and sore at the world in general, just try looking around a bit, and you will see how lucky you really are.

On November 22, 1951, Thanksgiving Day meant more than feasting and family gatherings. It was the day of the "Big Football Game" between Riverside College and San Bernardino Valley College. From 1948 thru 1957 this was the last game of the regular season for both teams. At stake was the "Victory Bell" that went to the winner of this contest between these Inland Empire rivals. If you don't think students would interrupt their Thanksgiving festivities to attend the game, take a look at the photo below from the 1952 "Tequesquite" yearbook.



This is Wheelock Field (facing north) with the overflow crowd on the visitor's side in the background. One can only imagine how packed the home stands were. People are lined on the access road leading to the stadium filling every available space. The article accompanying the photo read:

*"Football and students provide every opportunity for expression. Watch the face of a linesman waiting to rip through the opposing wall, or the fan munching a relish laden hot dog and trying to scream a protest at the same time. Watch the subs, leaning forward play by play with fingers clenching the weathered edge of the bench. Watch the coaches. Life is sweet or is it bitter, and it all hangs on the play. Wheelock Field was packed for the Thanksgiving Day game with San Bernardino. Need we mention the score? Across the field the expressions of Indian rooters are mercifully absorbed by the distance. We assume they were happy."*

Sad to say, but Riverside College was defeated by SBVC 48 to 0 that day and the Indians reacquired the "Victory Bell" that the Tigers had won the previous year by a score of 23 to 13. RCC was not to win back the trophy until 1955 when RCC won by a score of 41 to 27. Overall RCC's record against SBVC stands at 38 wins, 28 losses and 1 tie. The last time these two teams met was on September 10, 2011 in a game won by RCC 53 to 6 meaning that the Tiger football team is currently in possession of the "Victory Bell". The story behind that trophy will be told in a future "Countdown".

It is 3 years and 16 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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