

November 5, 2012

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

In 1935, a new shop building was constructed along the east slope of the Arroyo Promontory. This structure served the needs of both Riverside Junior College and Riverside Poly High School students. Below is a photo that appeared in the April 11, 1935 issue of "The Arroyo" student newspaper.

New High School Shops House Manual Training



An article accompanying the photo reported that this new edifice replaced the old shop building that was condemned after a March 1933 earthquake. The story described the new construction as being fireproof except for the roof and partitions. It was built at a cost of just over \$25,500 to the Riverside School board. W.C. Wrigley (Instructor in Wood Shops 1916-34) was quoted as saying:

"The greatest assets of this new building are the individual locker rooms and individual rooms for each of the three branches of vocational courses offered here and windows surrounding all shops, thermostatically controlled heating system, and blowers to regulate the air supply add to the comfort of the students."

At the time, the three branches of vocational courses offered at RJC were: Automotive, Machine and Wood shops. The article is reproduced below.

Shop Building Broadens Work

By Norman Mellor

Improving the lighting, heating, and ventilating system and improving the floor space for the high school and junior college auto, machine, and wood shop students, a new building was completed in the arroyo at the first of this year at a cost of \$25,536 to the school board and \$5,386 to the S. E. R. A. The shell of the building was built on contract for \$21,000 and the materials to put in floors and rooms cost \$4,536 with S. E. R. A. laborers completing the work. The building is fireproof except for the roof and partitions. The old shop building was condemned after the March, 1933, earthquake.

"The greatest assets of this new building are the individual locker rooms and individual rooms for each of the three branches of vocational courses offered here," stated W. C. Wigley, instructor in wood shop, "and windows surrounding all shops, thermostatically controlled heating system, and blowers to regulate the air supply add to the comfort of the students."

Each shop has improvements in the arrangement of equipment, but no new

machines have been installed in any of the divisions. All of the wood work, metal work, and automobile labor for the city schools is taken care of in the classes in this building. In addition, students have regular assigned jobs and may also do any other work that they desire.

J. W. Horton is instructor for the machine shop. Students are at present working on everything from casting, forging, and machining to jewelry making. One man is rebuilding a three-foot model steam engine belonging to the instructor.

Student and teachers' automobiles as well as school tractors are being repaired in R. H. Hamilton's and George Mosher's auto shop. A new visual checkup tool room is an improvement here.

W. C. Wigley's wood shop men are turning out javelin pieces for the school, large scale model boats, and finished pieces of furniture.

About 200 take shop courses, including ten junior college men. Night school classes are also held in this new building.

A parade ten miles long could be formed by boys and girls denied schooling last year. (Two abreast and a yard apart.)

In 1964 this building became the sole property of the college when Riverside Poly High moved to its new campus. Today, this "Shop Building" is known as the "Technology A Building". It has housed classes on behalf of RCC students for over 77 years. Below is a recent photo.



It is 3 years and 18 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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