

**December 3, 2012**

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

The dictionary defines a “wassail” as “a celebration with much drinking, especially at Christmas time.” In the 1950s and 1960s Riverside City College had its own version of a “wassail” in the Quadrangle to celebrate the season.

The “Wassail” photo on the left, pictures the 1957 event taking place in “The Pit”. The 1958 photo, on the right, depicts RCC students Janice Jasper and Francina Foote giving Earl King an advance taste of the wassail.





The 1963 “Tequesquite” described the festivities as:

*“Yuletide is ever a happy season. Underlying it all, of course, is the religious basis of the holiday, but it is the more secular aspects of the season that dominate the campus scene. And even these moods are varied. Students and faculty bask in relaxed sociability as they sip punch and munch cookies and the noontime wassail. They loosen up their vocal cords and practice songs and carols for the annual assembly. They schedule their own gay round of parties.”*

Below (from that same yearbook) is a photo of band director John Guin (Associate Professor of Music and Business 1957-1979) leading a chorus and band in “The Pit”.



The Wassail was described in the 1965 “Tequesquite” yearbook in the following manner:

*“CHRISTMAS CHEER – Now one of the most cherished traditions of the Yuletide season, the Wassail has become one of the college’s best attended events. Following the annual Christmas assembly, it finds everyone in the proper holiday spirit, and it helps keep it that way. Students pour out of the auditorium into the Quad, where they throng around tables tastefully decorated in seasonal motifs. Here they are served gaily decorated cookies and –*

*of course – wassail. Somewhat less invigorating than the concoction that delighted our Anglo-Saxon forebears, it is nonetheless a tasty draught of apple cider (not too hard), cinnamon, pineapple juice, and other exotic ingredients. Served hot, and with the gentle murmur of a filled Quadrangle, wassail makes a unique contribution to the holiday season.”*

The photo below is from that same yearbook.



It is 3 years and 14 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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