May 14, 2012

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

The University of California at Riverside is known for the giant “C” that adorns the hill next to the campus. But Riverside City College once had a similar adornment on its campus. From the 1920s until the early 1970s, there was a big “R” on the hillside of the Arroyo. The letter actually served a dual purpose, representing not only Riverside Junior College but also Riverside Poly High School which (from 1912 to 1965) was located on land now occupied by the Bradshaw Student Center, the Martin Luther King Jr. Teaching & Learning Center and the former Life and Physical Science Buildings. The first photo below (from the 1923 “Tequesquite” yearbook) shows RJC’s football team posing by the giant “R”. The second photo below (from the 1928 Poly High yearbook) shows the location of the first “R”. The picture was taken by the Photographe Department of the United States Air Corp of March Field. This “R” was removed during construction of the Gymnasium (later known as Wheelock Gym).
In the photos below, the location of the second big “R” (on the hillside below the Quadrangle and next to the Art Building) can be seen. This marker was there until construction of the Ceramics Building began in the early 1970s. The top photo is from the March 7, 1969 “Tiger Times” student newspaper reporting yet another flooding of the Arroyo. The second photo is from the October 30, 1970 “Tiger Times”. Two RCC club members are shown painting the letter. The old retaining wall (which still exists) can be seen above the two students.

It is 3 years and 43 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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