August 20, 2012

Countdown to Riverside City College’s 100th Anniversary

Eighty years ago in September of 1932, Riverside Junior College began its 17th school year. The September 26, 1932 “Arroyo” student newspaper reported the events of the first weeks of the fall semester. First of all, the newspaper told of a total student enrollment of 506 which was an increase of 90 students over the previous year. Registration of new students was said to have been carried out with less confusion than previously because of what was termed as an “excellent plan”. That “plan” had Freshman and Sophomores registering in separate rooms advised by RJC faculty who “carried off their heavy task with commendable efficiency”.

ASB President John Beck had this to say to the new students and faculty:

“As President of the Associated Student Body, I wish to extend a hearty welcome to all new students and faculty members. I am certain all of us who were members of Riverside Junior College last year will do everything possible to make you feel at home here.”

RJC President A.G. Paul welcomed the new students with the following declaration:

“An attempt is being made in the Riverside Junior College to unify the institution around the idea of intellectual accomplishment. If we succeed in this, the social and physical aims will find their legitimate expression. To do this successfully the interest of any group within the student body must be secondary to the main purpose. May this year find us along the way to a realization of our hopes.”

Superintendent of Riverside City Schools, Ira C. Landis said:

“As Superintendent of the City Schools I wish to welcome the incoming students of Riverside Junior College and to wish them success in the coming scholastic tilts. The school board offers its heartiest cooperation in any measures concerning the welfare of the college and its administration”.

The annual college mixer was announced. It was to be held in the Quadrangle with dinner served at 6:30pm prepared by the sophomore “girls”. Following the dinner, an 8:30 pm dance was scheduled in the gymnasium. A group going by the name of “Penniman’s Band” provided the music. Both events were free and the stated purpose of the mixer was “breaking the ice between old and new
students”. The mixer was strictly “no-date” so that “timid people need not stay away because of not having a date”.

It is 3 years and 29 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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