Countdown to Riverside City College’s 100th Anniversary

In July of 1931 the Riverside Board of Education began talks on expanding the Riverside Junior College Quadrangle. Records from the day indicate that the board was willing to spend as much as $25,000 to add a roofed Outdoor Stage connected to the existing Auditorium’s south side. A two story Art Center was in turn, to be connected to the south side of the Outdoor Stage. By October 1931, the board accepted the $23,000 bid submitted by the Cresmer Manufacturing Company. Work began that fall and the buildings were accepted by the board on March 15, 1932. On April 5, 1932, California Governor James A. Rolph Jr. spoke from the Outdoor stage to a gathering of the assembled student bodies of RJC and Riverside Poly High. An April 6, 1932 article in “The Arroyo” described the event:

“Governor Rolph expressed his pleasure in being in Riverside and in being given a chance to say a few words to the coming youth of the town. He said ‘You come here with active minds and bodies to get an education in a public school created and continued by the generosity of people of the state and you are expected to make the most of it’. He asserted that every American child has an equal chance to be successful in the world and explained that the success or failure of any life depended on the individual. He says, ‘There is no distinction between classes. It is up to you whether or not you take advantage of your opportunities’.”

Below is a photograph taken on that day.

The Outdoor Stage was used for Graduations, Pep Rallies, Assemblies and community events. Below are photos of two Graduation Ceremonies and a Pep Rally from the 1950s.
Sadly, the Quadrangle’s Outdoor Stage suffered the same fate as the Quad’s Auditorium (see last week’s “Countdown” for the full story). It was demolished in 1968 to make room for a remodeling of the Quad.

It is 3 years and 25 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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