January 23, 2012

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

“The Undertakers Club” was a popular but short-lived Riverside Junior College student organization in the 1920s. Despite its rather sinister sounding motto of, “We take care of the dead ones”, it was not an association of aspiring morticians but a school spirit club. However, to let the club speak for itself, reproduced below is its manifesto from the 1924 RJC “Tequesquite” yearbook:

Three years ago several of the boys in the Junior College felt the need of a stimulus toward social activities in the school and organized the Undertakers Club. The club was founded with the purpose of supporting all school interests, of promoting the social life of the institution and of carrying out their motto of “We take care of the dead ones.” This year the members have ably upheld the object of the organization, and at the first of the school year joined with the Lambda Sigmas in giving the big Autumn Hop. During the Christmas vacation they held a Christmas dance of noteworthy mention at the Victoria Club. Then they gave their semi-annual Dinner-Dance at Glen Ivy Hot Springs. Later in the year the members held another Dinner-Dance surpassing the first one. The Club has not only backed the school sports by more sideline support, but many of its members were on the field. In football all but two of the first string were Undertakers. In basketball, six out of the eight letterman were Club members. Track can also claim several of the Undertakers for its stars. A few of the members are out for debating and like activities. The debating manager is also a member. The new pins far surpass those of previous years. The black U with its inscribed skull and cross bones makes a fitting emblem for an Undertaker. The members of the Club are very proud of their striking stationary with its engraved symbol at the head of the sheets. If all the students in the College would show the same amount of zeal and spirits towards all the school’s interests as the Undertakers, the Riverside Junior College would become one of the largest and best known Junior Colleges in the state.

The first photo is from the 1923 “Tequesquite” yearbook, the second from the 1924 yearbook.
It is 4 years and 7 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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