

January 30, 2012

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

In the late 1950s, Riverside City College entered the modern age of data processing with the installation of an IBM Alphabetical Accounting Machine Type 402, an IBM Interpreter Type 548 and an IBM Collator Type 85. These machines were acquired to perform such RCC administrative duties as semester rolls, grade reporting and summer school enrollment. For more information on the capabilities of the IBM Type 402, IBM Type 548 and IBM Type 85 follow the links below to the Columbia University Computing History website:

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/computinghistory/402.html>

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/computinghistory/interpreter.html>

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/computinghistory/collator.html>

The photo and article reproduced below are from the May 21, 1959 edition of the RCC "Tiger Times" student newspaper.



RCC IBM Installed

The latest in IBM equipment was installed in the former faculty lounge (across from the art department) last week, under the supervision of Mr. Ralph How—the superintendent of the now established IBM department.

The new machines will perform much of the administration duties such as the semester rolls, grade reporting, and summer school enrollment.

A tabulating machine (type 402) which makes up the rolls, and a high speed reproducing punch printer for mark sensing, which marks the pencil lines that are made by the students during testing are here. A test scoring machine will arrive in the near future.

The Interpreter (548) writes the codes on different cards, and are collator (85) matches and selects main index and sur index cards. They keypunch machines are operated by Gretchen Yeager and Jolynne Robinson. Mrs. Alice Best works at coding the material.

The Verifier machine verifies the action of the keypunch machine.

Mr. John Guinn is the instructor for the IBM class. It has been functioning in this college for two years, but did not have the necessary equipment for practical experience.

New students may enter the class in September if they have the necessary qualifications that are selected by the instructors.

Data processing students and tab operators may enter with previous experience. They learn through practical experience the new uses and machines.

It is 4 years and 6 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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