Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

In 1982, Riverside realtor and developer Bart Singletary was named the 26th RCCD Alumnus of the Year. Singletary graduated from Riverside City College (then known as Riverside College) in 1950. The article below appeared in the June 4, 1983 “Viewpoints” student newspaper. The photograph below is reproduced from the June 1982 “RCC Reports” district publication.

In that same “RCC Reports” issue, Singletary joked, “I started RCC in 1943 and graduated seven years later. My parents thought seven years was a long time to attend a junior college, but then no one ever accused me of being a student.” Actually, Singletary’s education was interrupted by a tour of duty with the military during World War II. Singletary, a native of Riverside, was born in 1927 and was a product of the Riverside school system. He was also a graduate of the Realtors Institute and held a certificate in real estate from the University of California Extension. In 1982 he reminisced about his hometown, “Riverside was a tremendous place to grow up; near beaches and with a fine educational system. I would not want to live any place else; we have been lucky to have tremendous growth, while still maintaining our quality and identity. I am very proud to be a member of the RCC alumni, and proud to have such a fine college in our community.” Singletary continued to support RCC as a member of the RCC Tiger Backers Board of Directors. About the work done by this volunteer organization, he said “The Tiger Backers provide a tremendous opportunity for businessmen in the community to get involved in supporting the athletic endeavors of the college, and we hope to offer support soon to academic areas of the college as well.” But his 1982 Alumnus of the Year award was not to be the only recognition Singleton received from RCC. In May of 2008, Quadrangle room 144 was dedicated to Singleton and his wife Barbara as “Singletary Hall” for, as inscribed on a plaque, “their extraordinary support of the college and the RCCD Foundation”. Quad 144 housed RCC’s library from 1924 to 1968. The photo in the upper left hand corner is how the room looked in the 1949 “Tequesquite” yearbook. Next to that photo is how the hall looks today. Seen on the lower left hand corner is the plaque that is mounted outside of the hall. Right next to that is a photo of Barbara and Bart Singletary.
In a 1982 “RCC Reports” interview, Singletary said of RCC, “The college has grown and the campus looks delightful and is something we can all be proud of. I was there recently for the A.G. Paul Quad dedication and was quite impressed with the campus and the enthusiasm of the staff and community.” The photo below left was from the 1950 “Tequesquite” yearbook. The photo next to it was taken at the time of his Alumnus of the Year honor.

It is 2 years and 33 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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