

August 12, 2013

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

In 1959 Orland William "Bill" Noble was named the first RCCD Alumnus of the Year. Noble attended what was then known as Riverside Junior College from 1922-24. While attending RJC, Noble was active in Student activities. He was Sports Editor of the "*Junior Colleger*" college newspaper and was also President of the "Undertakers Club". In the 1924 yearbook, this club was described as "*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*". Below is a photo of the Publications Staff and the Undertakers Club. In the top photo, Noble is standing to the right. In the bottom photo, Noble is seated third in from the left.



Noble also played sports at the college. He was best known for being a member of the 1924 RJC Basketball team that won the first Southern California JC championship ever brought to Riverside. Below is a team photo from the 1924 "*Tequesquite*" yearbook. Noble is seated front row center. He was a guard and team captain.



Noble went on to George Williams College in Chicago and the University of Southern California with his primary interest being Physical Education. In 1927, Noble started working for the Riverside District as director of Physical Education at the Boy's Junior High School. He moved to Maricopa High near Bakersfield in 1928, where he was Director of Physical Education and coach in the high school becoming District Superintendent in 1939. Noble returned to Riverside in 1940 to become a teacher of English and Social Studies at Poly High School. In 1941 he became Director of Attendance and then in 1943, Director of Adult Education and Supervisor of War Production Training for the Riverside City Schools. RJC President A.G. Paul brought Noble into the college's administrative fold as Director of Adult Education in 1943. In this war-time position, he set up evening classes at Camp Hahn and the Corona Naval Hospital as well as on the Riverside Poly High campus and RJC. As World War II ended, Noble became the Assistant to the President and Registrar in 1946. Below are two photos of Noble at the college in the 1940s.



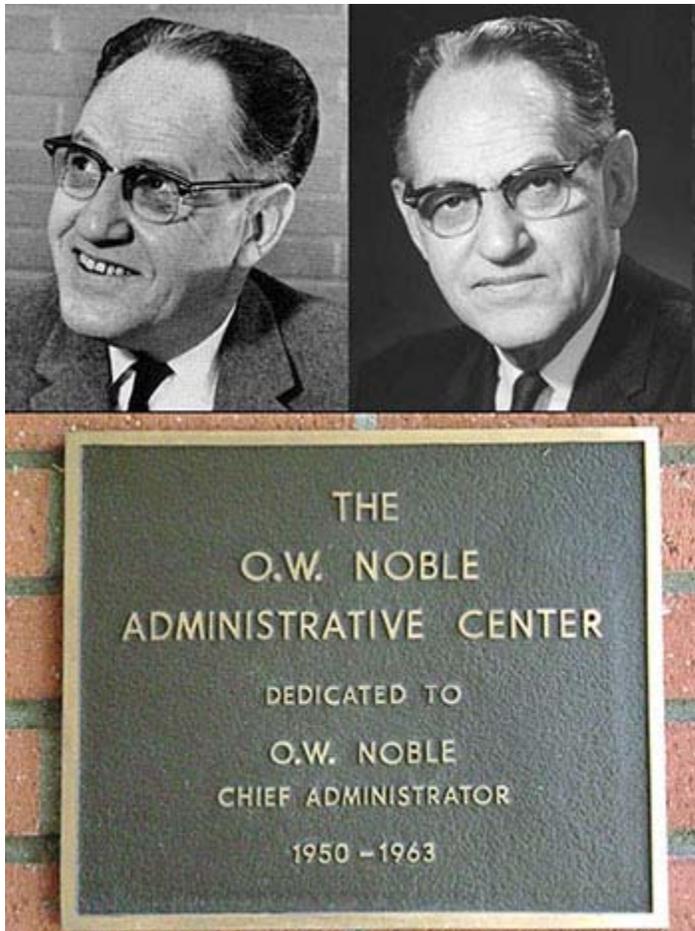
He succeeded A.G. Paul on July 1, 1950 as President of RCC becoming the second person to hold that position. Below are two photos of him taken during his first year as President of RCC (which was then known as Riverside College). They appeared in the 1951 *Tequesquite* yearbook. On the left he is strolling through the Quadrangle near the "Pit" (the tree behind him is still there, and is over 65 years old). On the right, Noble is seen in his Quad office conducting business.



The Noble years saw the college expand from beyond the Quadrangle with the completion of the Administration and Cosmetology buildings and the Woman's Gymnasium (today known as Huntley Gym). Other facilities were built and shared by the college and Poly High School (then located across Terracina Avenue). These "shared" structures were Cutter Park Pool and Landis Auditorium. During Noble's years, the faculty more than doubled in size from 52 to 108 members. Student enrollment grew from 681 in 1950 to 2454 in 1963 (Noble's last year as President). Below are photos of Noble throughout the 1950s.



Noble's run as President of Riverside City College ended prematurely in 1963 due to health issues. Below are two photos of Noble in the early 1960s. The Administration building constructed during his Presidency was named in his honor in the late 1980s. The plaque (below) is mounted on the building.



It is 2 years and 30 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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