



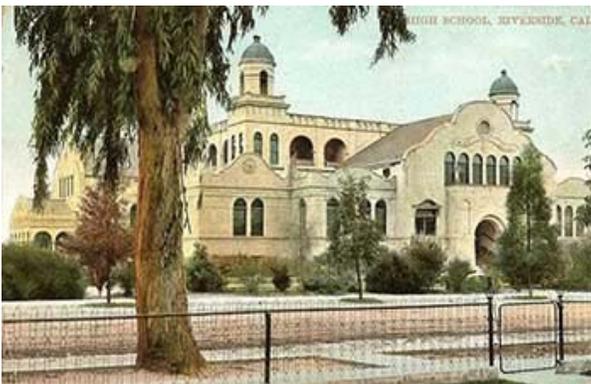
September 16, 2013

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

When Riverside Junior College was established on March 16, 1916, it was a college without a home. When it opened its doors in September of that year, 14 rooms in Riverside Polytechnic High School were used to house the first classes. Poly High was located on the south bank of the Tequesquite Arroyo on the Promontory just north and east of the corner of Terracina Drive and Riverside Avenue (today known as Miné Okubo Avenue). The histories of RJC/RCC and Poly High were interwoven for almost 50 years. For the first 8 years, they shared facilities until the first two buildings of the Quadrangle were completed in 1924. From that point on the high school and the college were “neighbors”, separated only by Terracina Drive. Riverside Poly High opened originally in 1911 as an “all-boys” school, there was a “Girls High School” on 9th Street. The aerial photo (below) is from the 1919 Poly High School yearbook *“The Stag”*. It can be presumed that the name of the yearbook was based on the all-male composition of the student body. The area between the words “Terracina” and “Fairfax Avenue” was to be the future home of the Quadrangle. The area below the word “Avenue” in “Terracina Avenue” would be where “Landis Auditorium” was dedicated some 36 years later on November 8, 1955.



By 1924 Poly High School became co-educational as the “Girls High School” became a “Girls Jr. High”. The post card below is of the 9th Street “Girls High School”.



(Below) The top picture was taken in the 1920s and it can be seen that by then, additional construction had increased the capacity of the school. The bottom picture was taken in the early 1950s prior to the construction of

Landis Auditorium. The RCC Quad can be seen in the upper center of the photo. Below the Quad are what would become the Art Building and Wheelock Gymnasium.



In March 1958, Riverside City Schools Superintendent Bruce Miller presented “a study for the expansion of Riverside City College” to the School Board. By July of that year, a large advisory committee had been selected by the board meeting in July and September to consider preliminary tasks. By November a 12-person subcommittee announced its recommendation that either Poly or the college campus be moved, citing practical, psychological and economic reasons. It also recommended that the question of which to move – the college or the high school – be further studied. On February 11, 1959 the historic recommendation was made that Riverside City College take over the Poly High campus. The decision seemed to boil down to a matter of dollars and cents. It would cost \$8 million to move the college; it would cost \$6 million to move the high school. All that remained now was to ask the district voters to fund the ambitious project. June 9, 1959 was set as the date for the bond issue to be decided by the community. The amount to be funded was \$15 million – an all-time high. Close to \$6 million was ticketed for the purchase of the Poly high school campus by the junior college and for alterations and the construction of a new library. All that was required was two-thirds approval by the electorate. What resulted was the first defeat of a Riverside City Schools bond issue when there was only a 60% (out of a needed 66 2/3%) approval. In 1962 the issue was raised again and this time the voters approved the measure by a vote of 26,342 (yes) to 11,034 (no). A timetable was set for Poly to quit the promontory on July 1, 1965 and for RCC to take possession on September 1, 1965. The fall 1965 semester saw the opening of the new Riverside Poly High campus on the corner of Victoria and Central. It was determined that none of the older Poly buildings had facilities which could be used to the college’s advantage and had to be razed for new construction to take place. The fall of 1965 also saw the complete destruction of the almost 55 year old high school campus. The two photos (below) from the fall issue of the “Spectator” RCC magazine publication shows the demolition underway.



The two photos (below) from the October 7, 1965 and December 2, 1965 *"Tiger Times"* student newspaper continue the coverage of the demolition of Poly High.



END OF AN ERA—Poly Science and Classics buildings are now being torn down. RCC students who went to Poly should recognize this view of the walkway between the two buildings.



RAIN ON THE HUBBLE--- The last rain that the remnants of Poly High will see makes the going a little muddy on Terracina in front of the Applied Arts building. Trucks carrying dirt down the Hill were the cause of the trail of mud down the right hand lane of the street.

The 1966 aerial photo (below) shows the grounds, formerly occupied by Poly High, being prepared for the construction of the new Library, Student Center and Physical and Life Science Buildings. The only promontory site Poly High buildings left standing was the high school's Administration building which today is known as the César E. Chávez Admissions and Counseling Building and Student Financial Services offices. Note the houses that once occupied the space where the Alan D. Pauw Business Education Building now stands. This photo is taken from approximately the same perspective as the 1919 photo.



It is 2 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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