November 4, 2013

Countdown to Riverside City College’s 100th Anniversary

Monday November 11th is Veterans Day when those who have served their country in the armed forces are honored. 70 years ago, the 1943 Riverside Junior College “Tequesquite” yearbook mirrored the fact that World War II was very much on the minds of the yearbook staff and their fellow RJC students. This year was the first of three “barebones” yearbooks that were published during the war years with fewer pages and photos. The title page showed the college’s mascot “Benny Bengal” shedding his graduation gown to reveal a military uniform. The next page featured a collage of “Arroyo” student newspaper war-related headlines.

Under the heading “Riverside Junior College at War ……” a U.S. flag was shown flying over the northeast corner of the Quadrangle. Today this is where the clock tower is located. Former RJC students who were serving in the Air Corps (Army & Navy), Army, Marines and Navy were recognized.
The next two pages had photos of RJC students who were preparing for military service. On the first page were members of the Army Enlisted Reserve Corps. On the second were Navy reservists.

The next two pages featured an illustration depicting the various locations in the world where RJC students were serving.

The following two pages represented the somber side of war. On the left was a photo of the December 7, 1942 Commemoration held one year to the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. On the right was a list of casualties from the first year and one half of the conflict. Former RJC students Theodore Wood, Albert James Rich, George Gingras, George William Vaughn, Sigurd Edgar Oien, Robert A. Garrett, Harlow Alabaster, Malcolm Conner and Henry F. Bryant all lost their lives in service to their country.
It is 2 years and 18 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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