



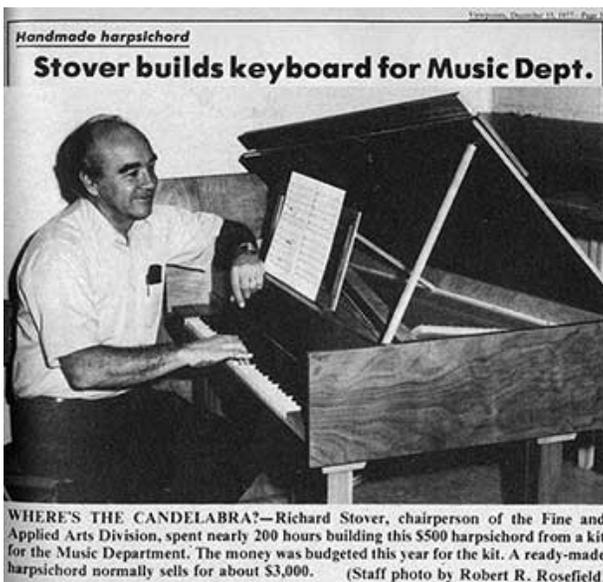
November 12, 2013

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

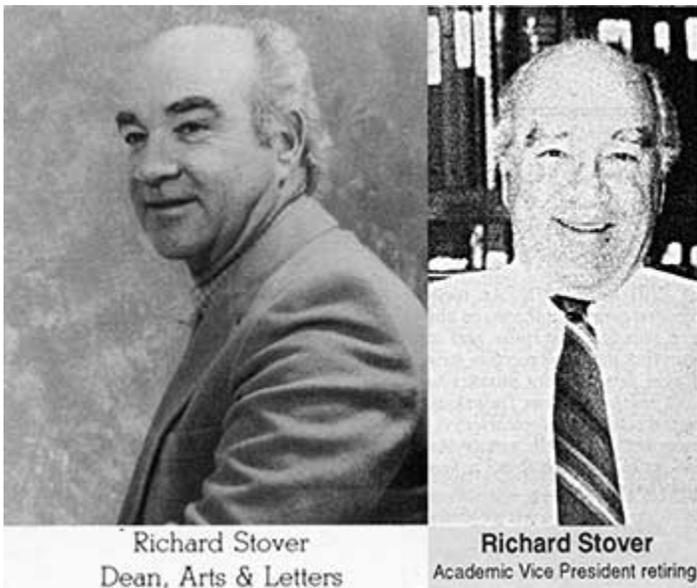
Richard Stover was a fixture at Riverside City College for over 28 years as a full-time Associate Professor of Music and administrator. Even after his retirement he continued his association with the college through "Performance Riverside". Born in 1928 in Laguna Beach, Stover attended Laguna High where he played in four sports and became the most valuable player on the football team. After graduation he attended Pomona College, and then received a master's degree in music at the Claremont Graduate School. He served two years in the U.S. Army where he was a member of service bands at Ft. Ord and Japan. In 1953 he began teaching music at Riverside Polytechnic High School, then located on Terracina Avenue next to RCC. In 1963 he "crossed the street" and came to RCC as an Associate Professor of Music teaching courses in music theory, literature and instrumental music. The photos below are from 1964 and 1966 "Tequesquite" yearbooks.



In the 1970s, he served as chairman of the Fine and Applied Arts Division. December 15, 1977 saw the publication of the photo below in the "Viewpoints" student newspaper.



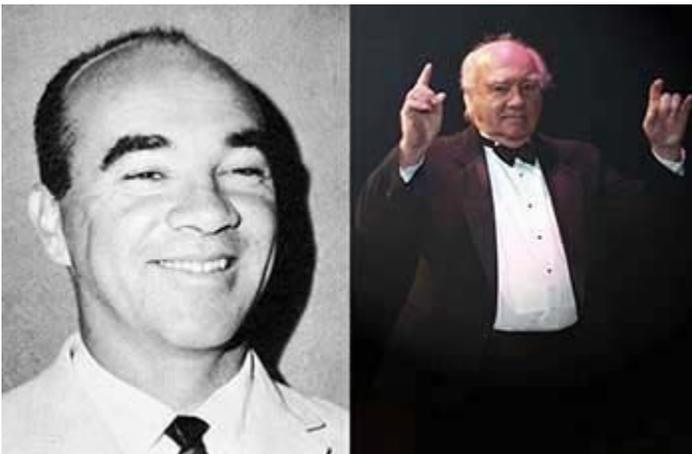
The article quoted Stover as saying, "The music department has always wanted a harpsichord to enhance Renaissance and Baroque music, so this year we budgeted \$500 to buy a harpsichord kit from the Boston Harpsichord Company and I volunteered to put it together." He went on to explain that the instrument would regularly sell for around \$3000 and buying it as a kit saved the college a considerable amount of money. The kit arrived in early September of 1977 and was completed on November 27, 1977. It took some 200 hours of Stover's time to complete the project. Stover said the biggest difficulty was "voicing" the instrument. He defined "voicing" as making each tone have the very same quality and volume of every other tone. Since there are 61 strings on the harpsichord, there were 61 tones to "voice". Stover commented, "Each little plectrum has to be hand cut and sanded when voicing the instrument. It took me hours and hours." In 1978 he became an assistant dean at the college and was eventually named Dean of Arts and Letters. He also contributed his composing and conducting talents to various San Bernardino Civic Light Opera productions and was one of the founders of Performance Riverside, where he served as principle composer, conductor and director. In 1989, during RCC's transition to a three-campus college, Stover was named Provost of the Riverside Campus. In 1991 he was appointed to vice president of Academic Services then retired later that year. At the time of his retirement he said, "*What happens to students is number one, lots of good people come through – many bright, young, and full of beans*", adding that although he enjoyed being a member of RCC's administration, he missed the "*close daily contact with students*," he had as a classroom teacher. The photo below left appeared in the one-off 1985 RCC yearbook and the photo below right appeared in the May 22, 1991 issue of "*Viewpoints*" as he announced his retirement.



In 1997, following the retirement of Gary Schultz (Director, Performing Arts, Associate Professor Theater Arts 1966-1996), then RCC President Salvatore Rotella asked Stover to assume the position of theater production advisor for Performance Riverside on an interim basis calling him "*an old hand who has commanded a lot of respect from people here.*" Stover dealt with Performance Riverside budgets and served as a liaison between the arts organization and the college. With the swing music revival of the 1990s Stover presented a popular series of Big Band concerts in Landis Auditorium. The series actually had started in the early 1990s then dropped in 1994 due to budgetary restrictions and Stover's busy schedule. The series returned in 1998 for another successful run. In a ceremony that took place on June 3, 2002, RCC named its new campus music building "*The Richard M. Stover Music Hall*". The photos below were taken on the dedication day.



In an August 3, 2002 “Viewpoints” article Stover said of the honor, *“I’m really flattered that RCC thought enough of me to name it after me. I nearly broke down at the building ceremony because I have so many fond memories throughout my career at RCC.”* He also felt that the honor was really dedicated to the hard work of RCC music students and their professors throughout the decades. He stated *“They’ve built one of the finest music programs in the state. I’m proud of them. I’m just fortunate to be a tiny part of RCC’s Music Department. I turned to teaching because it was a great way to give something back to the community and still be able to play my music. It was natural for me because I had so many fine music teachers through my elementary school days and all through college. I was fortunate to do both teaching and being a musician.”* On his office wall, as a remembrance of one of his mentors, was a framed \$1 bill with a handwritten note that read *“May this be only the beginning of a very successful career as a musician”*. It was signed *“Your friend and teacher, Cleo Allen Hibbs, 1938”*. Stover earned the dollar bill when he was only 10 years old and performing a saxophone solo for the Rotary club. Hibbs accompanied the young Stover on piano and later gave him the framed memento. The photo below left is from the 1965 “Tequesquite” yearbook and the second photo is from the early 2000s.



Some of the source material for this Stover profile came from “Viewpoints” articles by students Fran Miller, Sandra M. Edwardsen and Bill Mulligan.

It is 2 years and 17 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.

For copyright purposes, all images originating from Riverside City College publications and the District's Office of Strategic Communications and Relations are the property of the Riverside Community College District.