Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Christmas 1963 (Part One): In the wake of the November 1963 JFK assassination, Riverside City College students might not have been expected to have reason to celebrate the Christmas season. However, 50 years ago, RCC Yuletide activities began with a “Christmas Festival of Arts”. Drama, painting, ceramics, sculpture, photography and clothing classes joined forces to present this event. An exhibit of student work was shown in the foyer of Landis Auditorium. On Thursday December 12th there was a fashion show presented by the Extended Day clothing classes. On Friday December 13th a Christmas Rally was held in the Quadrangle “Pit”. Sigma Rho Chi fraternity and Delta Chi Delta sorority sponsored an “Ugly Man” contest to raise money for the ASB Christmas Fund. The goal was raise $250. These monies were earmarked for needy families in the Riverside area. “Ugly Man” candidates were sponsored by various campus organizations with the winner being the contestant who collected the most for the fund. Below is a photo from the “Pit” Christmas Rally which appeared in the December 19, 1963 issue of “The Tiger Times” student newspaper.

The 1964 “Tequesquite” yearbook contained more pictorial coverage of the December 13, 1963 Christmas Rally. Below left is a photo of candidates John Dilillo and Emmett Ford announcing contributions to the Christmas drive. Below right is the winner of the “Ugly Man” contest, Dennis Rahn.
Seen below are students Betty Lou Curtis and Kay Issac gathering up coins tossed by members of the audience for the Christmas Fund.

The Christmas Rally concluded with the singing of the RCC Alma Mater. The lyrics to the song were printed on placards and held up by Tiger Song Leaders. Seen left to right are: Kay Isaac, Linda Perry, Barbara Crosby, Cathy Yurkovich, Pam Nutter and Mary Patroan. In addition to being a song leader, Mary Patroan was the Associated Women’s Students President, member of the ASB Executive Board and member of the ASB Cabinet. In a May 17, 1964 ceremony held at the Mission Inn, she was honored as the 1963-4 RCC Woman of the Year.

Later on the evening of December 13th the annual Christmas Formal dance was held at the Mission Inn. Below left is student Vicki Morrow of the Social Committee with a Christmas tree that was prepared by the group for display on campus. Below right is a Christmas tree that was part of the stage decorations for the Christmas Assembly held on Friday December 20th.
Next week: Christmas 1963 (Part Two).

It is 2 years and 13 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.