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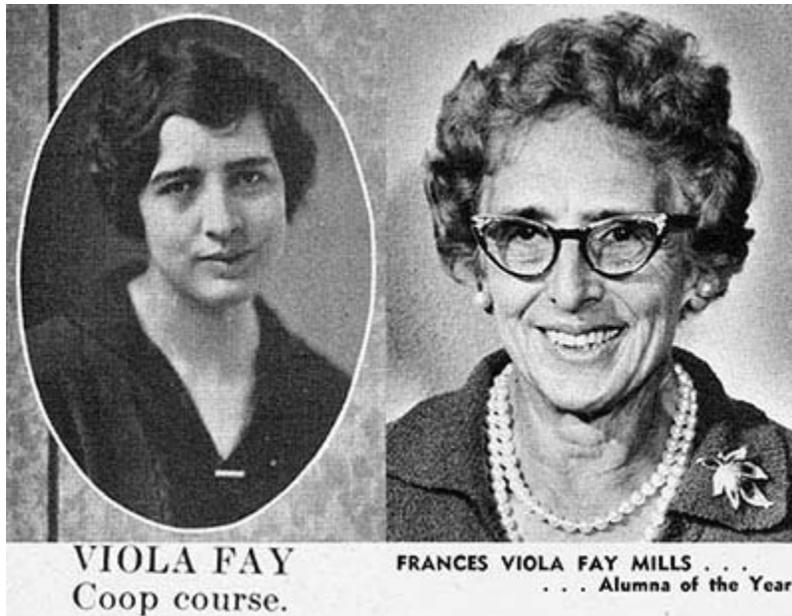
Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

In 1968, Riverside City College named its first female Alumnus of the Year. Frances Viola Fay Mills was awarded with a plaque at RCC's June commencement ceremony that year. In 1924, she enrolled at what was then called Riverside Junior College as a pre-medical major. Not long after that, she shifted to the "Cooperative Program" through which she took nursing training at Riverside Community Hospital. The "Cooperative Program" was an innovative work-study curriculum developed at Riverside Junior College by Professors Howard H. Bliss (Physical Science 1920-1950) and Archie Twogood (Physical Science 1922-1956). RJC Coop students would work four weeks at a vocation site followed by five weeks of study at the College. They would then reverse the process working five weeks, then studying four weeks. The students would generally complete the program in three years. In the nursing training of the times, students could expect to spend three months at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles, six weeks at the Scripps Metabolic Clinic in La Jolla, six weeks in the Communicable Disease Department of Los Angeles General Hospital and six weeks at the Riverside County Clinic in Public Health Nursing. Professors Bliss and Twogood are seen below in photos from the 1933 "Tequesquite" yearbook.



Ms. Mills graduated from RJC in June of 1927 and received her nursing diploma from Riverside Community Hospital in September of that same year. At the time of her receiving RCC's Alumnus of the Year award, Mrs. Mills was a registered nurse spending most of her professional life as a senior communicable disease investigator for first Los Angeles City and later L.A. County. She began her career with a brief tour of private duty in Southern California as a nurse. Then, following a vacation tour of China, she joined the staff of the hospital at Peking Union Medical College. Not long after, she returned to the states where, in 1962, she received a special citation from the Los Angeles Health Commission for helping stem a typhoid outbreak. In 1967, she was named the outstanding county employee of the year by the Los Angeles County Employees Association and subsequently she was designated the outstanding county employee for the entire state of California. In her career she worked with patients and other individuals suffering from Hansen's disease, tuberculosis, and diphtheria. At the time of her award, she was specializing on problems relating to alcoholism.

Below left is a photo of Viola Fay from the 1927 *“Tequesquite”* yearbook. Below right is a 1968 photo of Frances Viola Ray Mills from the *“RCC Reports”* College publication.



It is 3 years and 7 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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