January 7, 2013

Countdown to Riverside City College’s 100th Anniversary

A plaque, mounted on the wall of the northern exit of Riverside City College’s A.G. Paul Quadrangle, honors the first Chief Executive Officer of the College. A.G. Paul headed RCC from 1920 to 1950. The plaque is located just around the corner from the room that served as his office from the late 1920s until he retired. Below left is a photo of the plaque. Below right is the portrait of A.G. Paul that, presumably, was used to create the likeness of him that appears on the tribute.

The following is inscribed on the plaque:

ARThUR GORDON PAUL

PRESIDENT, RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1920-1950

Arthur G. Paul was the skillful and visionary administrator who built Riverside Community College from its infancy to a strong institution which reflects to this day his solid values – the discipline of mind and character, the development of intellectual maturity, the realization of potentialities. He was committed to the College – to the quality of its offerings, the standard of its achievement, the effectiveness of its instruction and the relevance of its programs,

“MAY THIS EXPRESSION SERVE IN STIMULATING US TO MOUNT TO NEW REACHES OF APPRECIATION OF ALL THAT IS NOBLE AND FINE IN LIFE, CREATIVE GENIUS IN ALL LINES, AND WITH WIT AND HUMOR WHICH SHOWS A GENUINE LOVE OF LIFE”

And so it is, to this warm-hearted friend, that youth offers a pledge of affection and loyalty such as few men can ever know.

He was a true source of this College’s uniqueness and was liked and respected by the faculty and students.
“He fought the fight, he kept the faith, and he finished the course.”

This tribute to Mr. Paul is made possible by the generous donation of The Phil and Theta Baldwin Family. October 9, 1997

A ceremony was held when the plaque was presented to the College. Below left is a December 11, 1997 “Viewpoints” newspaper photo of its unveiling. Seen in the photo are Theta and Phil Baldwin. Below right is a photo from the 1938 “Tequesquite” yearbook of Phil Baldwin as a Riverside Junior College student.

It is 3 years and 9 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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