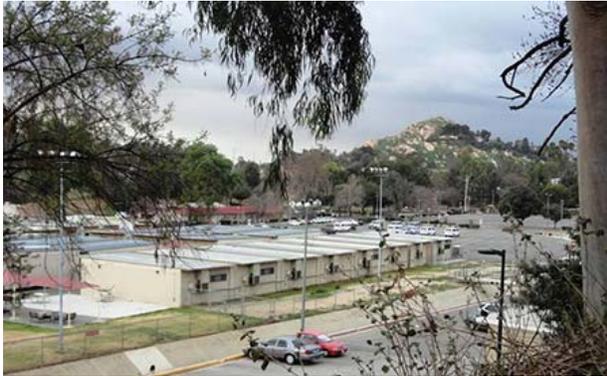


February 11, 2013

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

On the Riverside City College campus, Lovekin Field is home to a group of buildings known as the Lovekin Complex. A recent photo of this area can be seen below.



But this land was not always part of the Riverside Junior College campus as it was known in its early years. Its acquisition was announced in a May 25, 1932 story that appeared in *"The Arroyo"* student newspaper. As a point of reference, Pachappa Hill can be seen in both the photo above and the photo below.

The Arroyo
Volume VII Riverside, California, Wednesday, May 25, 1932 Number 17

A. C. Lovekin Property Presented to Junior College



A. C. Lovekin



This picture of property newly acquired by the Riverside Junior College through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Lovekin, former owners, shows clearly the many beautiful trees that make the 2½ acre plot in the southeast section of the arroyo a place of beauty. One of the rugged Pachappa hills shows in the background. The property is so shaped that with little expenditure it could be made into an unusually attractive outdoor bowl, a use to which the Lovekins hope that it may be put some time in the future.

The story of the property was told by former RCC Professors Tom M. Johnson and Gilbert Jimenez in their book "Riverside City College 1916-1981 – A 65 Year History".

"Although no further major construction was to take place until after World War II a significant event in the history of the growth of the campus took place in May of 1932. During the month several sources – school and community newspapers, minutes of board of education meetings – reported the gift of two and one-half acres of land in the Tequesquite Arroyo to the junior college. The gift was made by Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Lovekin, long-time residents of Riverside, who hoped that the wooded land – east of the college campus, rimmed by Olivewood Avenue – would be used as an outdoor bowl to 'add to the cultural advantages of Riverside.' On May 19, 1932 the Lovekin gift was

formally accepted by the Board of Education in a school assembly in the college auditorium. A.S. Cooper, president of the board, accepted the gift, acknowledging the generosity and interest expressed by the Lovekins in the progress of Riverside schools. Mr. Cooper also expressed the thought that 'He looked forward to the time when the arroyo from the fill (Magnolia Avenue) to the property deeded by the Lovekins ... will have been improved to such an extent that it will be known not only for its facilities in connection with the operation of schools, but as a place of scenic beauty.' Certainly many of the facilities which have been built in the arroyo have contributed to the successful operation of the school, but it is doubtful whether Mr. Cooper had parking lots in mind when he voiced his expectations. The Lovekin property never became a bowl – that idea went the way of other similar arroyo projects. However, it did, in time, become the center of the college's Cosmetology program."

Riverside Junior College and its students were so grateful to the Lovekins that the 1934 "Tequesquite" yearbook was dedicated to them. The photo below appeared with the text:

DEDICATION
The Junior College Dedicates
Tequesquite 17 to
Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Lovekin

because they love Riverside, its arts and its artists.



It is 3 years and 4 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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