February 4, 2013

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

In 1981, former Riverside City College professor and student Robert Patton was chosen as RCC’s Alumnus of the Year. Patton worked for 35 years in the Riverside school systems. He was a true product of a Riverside education attending local schools from first grade through his 1928 graduation from what was then called Riverside Junior College. While he was a student at RJC, Patton won the state discus championship and was captain of the track team in 1928. He was president of the freshman class, the student body and the honor society during his two years at the college.

Below is a team photo of the 1927 RJC Track and Field team from the “Tequesquite” yearbook. Patton is in the front row on the extreme left.

![Team Photo](image)

After leaving RJC, he attended Stanford University where he graduated cum laude in 1930. That same year he began to work at the predecessor to the “Press-Enterprise” the “Riverside Press”. He established the first Journalism class at RJC in 1931 and became a full-time instructor in 1932. He spent 25 years at the College as an instructor and was advisor for the yearbook “The Tequesquite” and the student newspaper “The Tiger Times”. Both publications won numerous awards under his direction. Patton had a meticulous nature about establishing historical records of the college's growth. This information was invaluable to Professors Tom Johnson and Gilbert Jimenez when they wrote their book, “Riverside City College 1916-1981 - A 65 Year History”.

Below are photos of Patton throughout his years at RCC.
While working as an RJC instructor, Patton was given special assignments by the office of the city superintendent. During this time and later on when he became an administrator for the Riverside Unified School District, Patton made frequent contributions to the “Riverside Press” and often served as relief city editor for the “Daily Enterprise”. In 1956, Patton became director of information services and publications for the city school system serving under Superintendent Bruce Miller. His responsibilities included public relations and other assorted duties, which he described as “organization, programming and providing laughs”. The one thought that was echoed most about Patton was the relationships that that he had with his students and his fellow faculty members. RCC President Ralph Bradshaw said of Patton, “He had a tremendous influence on his students. He made great contributions to both the students and faculty of Riverside City College. Robert Patton represents the bridge in the faculty in its earlier days and what it is today”. Patton was a lifetime supporter of Riverside City College and remembered his years as a student with fondness saying “It astonished my students when I told them that of the places that I’ve received schooling, the best two years of my education were at RCC.

Below are photos of Robert Patton from the 1928 “Tequesquite” yearbook and from 1981.
It is 3 years and 5 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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