March 11, 2013

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Ninety-five years ago, Riverside City College (then known as Riverside Junior College) published its first yearbook. RJC and Fullerton College were the first Southern California junior colleges to issue yearbooks in 1918. The 72 page publication, called the “Kollej Ko-ed”, was a predecessor of the “Tequesquite” yearbook which began its run in 1920 chronicling college life until its 1966 demise. The 1918 “Kollej Ko-ed” featured some of the earliest photos of RCC.

Below is the cover and title page of the premiere yearbook.

Fourteen members of the Class of 1918 (the first to graduate from RJC) are pictured below. The names of these students are: (Left panel, top to bottom) Ruth C. Anderson, Grace A. Cutting, Wakefield B. Byrkit, Madeline Enman and Florence B. Hansbrough. (Center panel, top to bottom) Blance Hess, Dorothy Kincell, Harvey Davison, Verda Manners and Ida Michelbacher. (Right panel, top to bottom) Frances Alice Tetley, Alta Thomas, Myrle Waldman and Marjorie M. Wright. Perhaps the most notable member of this class is Dorothy Kincell. In 1921, she became the first alumnus of RJC to teach at the college when she, at the request of A.G. Paul, returned to fill in for Spanish instructor Kate O’Neill (Associate Professor of Spanish 1916-1942) who was taking graduate courses. When O’Neil returned, Kincell went over to Riverside Poly High to teach Spanish. Following O’Neil’s passing in 1942, Kincell returned RJC where she taught until 1961.
Below is a photo of the 1918 RJC Freshmen Class. Note the military uniforms on many of the men. RJC came into existence during World War I and all men of the college were required to take Military Training as part of their curriculum beginning in October of 1917.

Next week’s “Countdown” will deal with the 1918 yearbook’s coverage of student activities.

Wednesday March 13, 2013 is Riverside City College’s 97th Anniversary. On that day it will be exactly 3 years 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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