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 book was called the "Kollej Koed" and was a predecessor to 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.

On December 18, 1917, Arthur W. Pinero’s four act farce “The Cabinet Minister” was performed. The yearbook described the plot as: "Lady Twombley, being hard pressed for money, borrows from Mrs. Gaylustre and her brother, Mr. Joseph Lebanon. As Lady Twombley is unable to pay her debts, the two decide to force her to introduce them into high society. Lady Twombley does this, and the haps and mishaps of the pair are the life of the play".

Below are photos of the cast members.

Debating was the only inter-collegiate activity that RJC participated in that school year. The Debate team’s only competition of the year occurred on March 29, 1918. The opponent was Hemet Junior College which was located at Hemet Union High School. HJC was one of 23 junior colleges fully
accredited by the state university. At that time, most California junior colleges operated out of high school campuses. Riverside’s negative team journeyed to Hemet and its affirmative team stayed at home, meeting Hemet's negative team. The subject at both places was “Resolved, That the Parliamentary Form of Government (the English system) Should Be Introduced Into the United States”. The RJC Debate team won both at Hemet and Riverside. Below is a photo of the RJC Debate team. Standing in the photo is Reginald Banks and Horace Hagerty. Seated are Madeline Enman, Harry Amstutz and Amy Brown.

As World War I was still underway, military training was a major part of the RJC curriculum for male students. Beginning in October of 1917, all college men received intensive training daily after school, and on Saturdays, to fit them as efficient officers in the Cadet Battalion. The purpose of this preparation was to fit the men for an officer’s training school.

Below is a photo of the 1917-18 Cadet Battalion.

Other student activities were shown in photo collages that appeared in the back pages of the yearbook.
It is 2 years and 50 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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