April 15, 2013

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Quadrangle Room 102 on the Riverside City College campus is dedicated to Cecil Stalder. The plaque below is mounted next to the classroom. The photo on the right is from the 1951 “Tequesquite” yearbook.

Cecil E. Stalder taught History at Riverside City College from 1946 to 1967. He was a long-time resident of Riverside County, raised in Nuevo, a rural community located east of Lake Perris. He spent a portion of his childhood in what is now known as Mira Loma. The city then was then known as Wineville or unofficially, Stalderville because his family owned much of the land. In the late 1920s, after his graduation from Riverside Poly High, he took his undergraduate courses as a Cooperative Program student at what was then known as Riverside Junior College. He went on to graduate from the University of California, Berkeley in 1932. He also did advance studies at UC Berkeley and Claremont College. He began his teaching career at Riverside’s Chemawa Junior High school, moving on to Riverside Poly High before coming to RJC in 1946. Below are photos of Stalder in his office from the 1957 and 1963 “Tequesquite” yearbooks.

In 1961, by a vote of his colleagues, he became the first RCC Faculty Lecturer. This first Faculty Lecture took place in room 122 of the Quadrangle. Below is an article from the April 13, 1961 “Tiger Times” student newspaper announcing the event.
By the late 1950s, as RCC’s faculty approached 100 in number, its leadership felt more and more the pressure to organize formally. In 1962, a Steering Committee was formed to explore the creation of an RCC Faculty Association. This Steering Committee was made up of faculty members Jack Newstead, Rupert Blackmun, Bob Kroger, Bill Hunt, Nate DeFrancisco, John Matulich and Cecil Stalder. By the fall of 1963, what had previously been known as the Faculty Club (primarily a social club) became the RCC Faculty Association. A constitutional convention was called for April 25, 1964 to discuss the proposed constitution and by-laws of the RCC Faculty Association. These items were recommended by a committee composed of RCC faculty Bill Wiley, Dean Carlson, Tom Johnson and Cecil Stalder. Sixty-four of the 102 faculty members attended the convention and discussed each article of the proposal. The convention voted unanimously to recommend the constitution to the entire faculty for adoption. A vote was taken on April 30, 1964 resulting in an overwhelmingly favorable approval of the document. Because of this outcome, the RCC Faculty Association was in business. Later this organization became known as the RCC Academic Senate. Below are two photos of Cecil Stalder in the classroom. The 1954 “Tequesquite” yearbook photo (below left) shows him with student and future RCCD Board of Trustee member (1964-79) Joseph Aguilar. Below right is a photo from the December 7, 1961 “Tiger Times” newspaper. Stalder is seen mentoring a canine (coincidentally also named Cecil) that had wandered into his class. The caption under the photo quoted Stalder as saying “This seems to be one of my more intelligent students.”
Away from RCC, Stalder was a member of the Social Action Committee of the First Congregational Church of Riverside, a former president of the Colt Baseball League, a director of the World Affairs Council and a moving force in Riverside’s Great Decisions Program. In the May 1968 issue of “RCC Reports” this tribute to him appeared: “He was no ‘Mr. Chips’. You never thought of him as charming; because you were too busy defending your prejudices from his vigorous onslaughts. And gentle he certainly was not, for he paid you the compliment of assuming you cared as deeply about your beliefs as he did his own, and the sharpest weapon of the advocate’s mind was the surest way to the discovery of truth. But the passion of Mr. Stalder’s argument was rooted in compassion. He had a deep love of his fellow man and was resentful of anything that stood in the way of his fulfillment. He was exceedingly impatient with human folly, but never with humanity”.

It is 2 years and 47 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.

For copyright purposes, all images originating from Riverside City College publications and the District’s Office of Strategic Communications and Relations are the property of the Riverside Community College District.