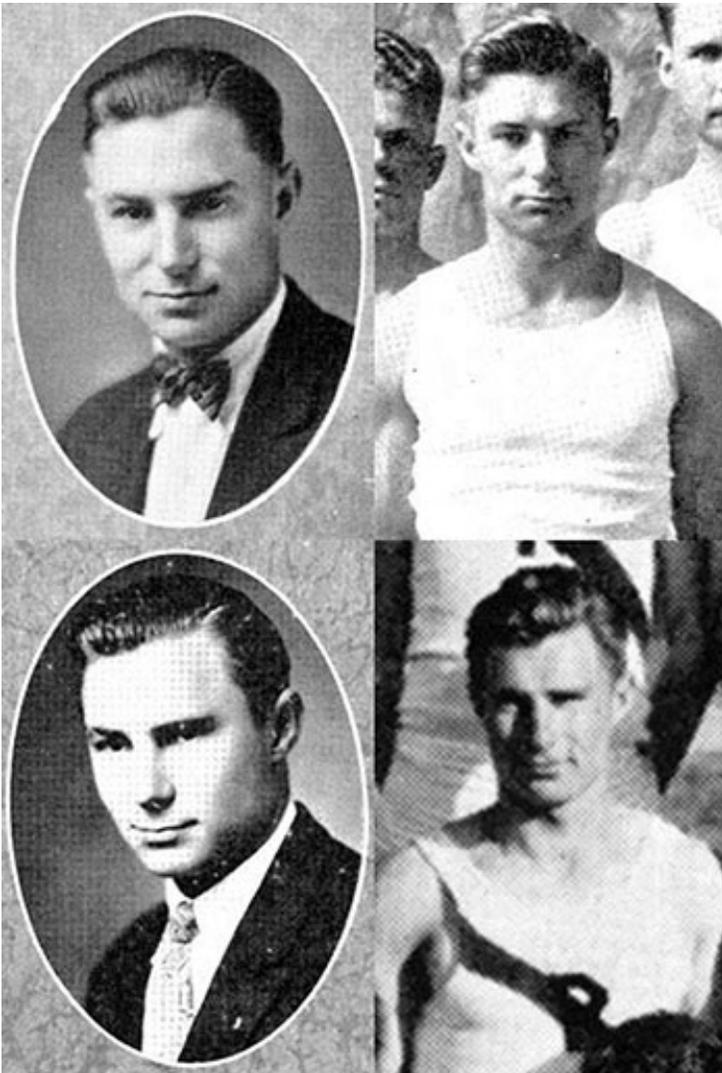




November 11, 2014

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

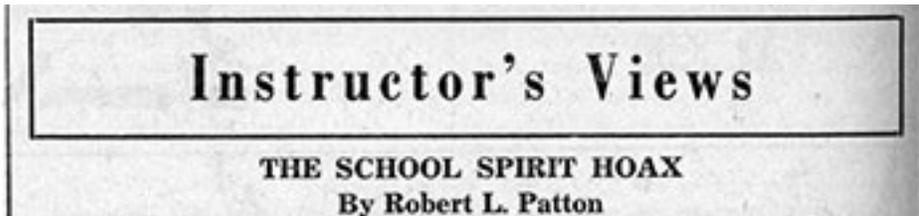
In January 1939, "Arroyo" student newspaper Executive Editor Marvin Hayman asked members of the Riverside Junior College faculty to write a series of opinion pieces under the title "Instructor's Viewpoints" (in late February, the title was changed to "Instructor's Views"). Today, 75 years later, we can see what was on their minds. The sixth article appeared in the February 22, 1939 edition of the newspaper and was written by Robert Patton (Professor of English, Journalism 1931-1961). Patton was one of three early RJC graduates that later returned to the college. The other two were Dorothy Kincell (Class of 1918) and Orin Noble (Class of 1924). Kincell taught Spanish at the college sporadically in the early 1920s then taught at Riverside Poly High. She returned to the college in 1942 and taught until 1961. Noble came to the college in 1942 as Director of Adult Education and later became President from 1950 to 1963. While Patton was a student at RJC, he 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. The top two photos below are from the 1927 "Tequesquite" yearbook. The bottom two are from the 1928 yearbook.



Returning to the College in 1931, he taught in the English Department. In the 1939 yearbook, he was described as “genial and energetic, instructs in journalism and acts as adviser to the “Arroyo” (newspaper) and the “Tequesquite” (yearbook) staffs”. Below is a photo of Patton with “Arroyo” Executive Editors Muriel Scott (standing), Clare Russell and Robert Burrell (seated), from the 1938 yearbook.



Patton’s article was entitled “The School Spirit Hoax”.



“A little while ago it rained. Many students did not want to get wet, so they stayed in bed and missed their early classes. They did not want to get wet, or damp, or cold and they did not want to step in puddles. They like to have their rain run away down a drainpipe and into the sewer. When these students grow up they will be properly dry and brittle. A few of those that attended an 8 o’clock class on the rainy day, in the course of extemporaneous argument, fell into a discussion school spirit, or, rather, the lack of it.”

HARD TO DEFINE

The term ‘school spirit’ is, in itself, immature. No one seemed quite able to express its exact meaning. There was one who intimated that it may be measured by the variety and extensiveness of recreational facilities that any campus can offer its students. This student went so far as to infer that if a swimming pool, a bowling alley, ping pong tables, shuffle board courts, billiard rooms, and other specialties of the sports-minded could be provided by a benevolent tax-payer or by a considerate government’s wise spending program, the students would then thumb through the pages of their textbooks with refulgent smiles. Unfortunately, the individual of gaming instincts is not alone. His point of view is unreasonably contagious. His followers are many. The unthinking are eager to take up the hue and cry, quite overlooking the essential purpose of any college.

TOO MUCH ENTERTAINMENT

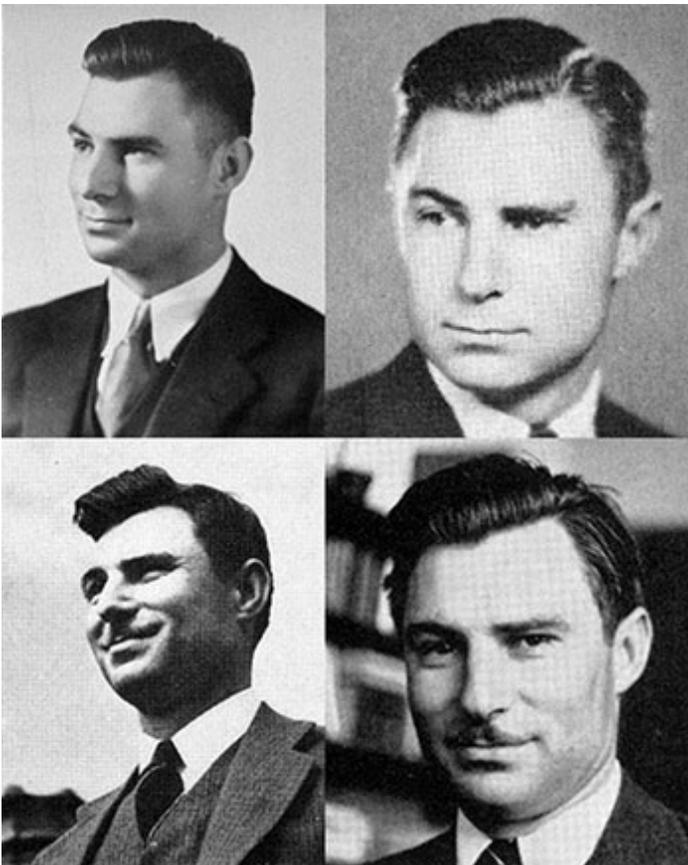
A shelter and the words of a wise, man should be sufficient incentive for the intelligent in a civilization that already provides too vast an array of entertainment for the spare moment. It is quite possible that educational administrators have made their greatest mistake in humoring the desire to play rather than the desire to work. It is unfortunate that economic conditions must be such as to discourage the student who has a serious purpose. It is equally unfortunate that many must work too hard to provide themselves with an opportunity to attend college classes. For these there

should be adequate means of recreation and physical inspiration. The evil of too much play is on all sides, however, Students are forgetting how to read. They are forgetting how to sit quietly in sun. They are forgetting how to think because it isn't amusing to think. Everything of serious import must be wrapped in cellophane or injected into the mind by some painless and miraculous feat of teaching.

SECRET IS WITHIN

If a student is to find the secret of school spirit or of any kind of spirit, for that matter, he must first look within himself. If the fire is dead, he must rekindle it for the cold days ahead. The truest spirit is found in friendship and in fidelity to a cause. That cause, in the case of a college, is not the cause of shuffleboard and ping pong. Friendship is for the taking on the barest plot of ground. So we return to the students who stayed in bed because they didn't want to get wet in the rain. We leave them in their soft beds - for them so little wind, so little sun, so little of the magic all about. Perhaps they will dream of pushing peanuts with their noses or parading the paths of a mythical campus dressed only in a barrel; who can tell what fantastic shapes their dreams of spirit will take. Alas, if they would but throw up the blinds and open the windows."

The photos below of Patton appeared in 1930s "Tequesquite" yearbooks. The top two came from 1935 and 1937. The bottom pair appeared in the 1938 and 1939 yearbooks.



It is 1 year and 17 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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