December 22, 2014

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

The Riverside City College Christmas Formal was a dance that was held on an almost yearly basis between the 1930s and 1960s. It usually took place in the Music Room of the Mission Inn and occasionally in the Riverside Municipal Auditorium. Students and Faculty would don their finest apparel and dance to big band music. The Faculty would act as the chaperones of the evening. During the sobering years of World War II, the event was not held. With the return of the soldiers, the Christmas Formal resumed. The 1951 Christmas Formal was reported in this December 5, 1951 article from the “Tiger Times” student newspaper. It read:

“The holiday theme will be well in evidence at the annual Christmas formal to be held at the Mission Inn, Dec. 18. The Inn’s Music Room will be the locale and all Riverside College students will be admitted free with ASB cards. Guest cards will be issued to any students desiring them. They are $1.00 per person and may be obtained in Miss Frances Fraser’s office. The dance starts at 9:00 and is scheduled to end at midnight. The music of the college dance band is to be featured with two - added attractions, Renee Harper and George Moore will both act as vocalists for the band. In charge of decorations is Barbara Weaverling. Miss Weaverling will select her own committee. Other committee chairmen and their members will be announced in the next issue of the Tiger Times, Dec. 18. Formal attire (which consists of suits and ties for the men and formal dresses for the women) will be required. Mary Jane Flanagan, social chairman of the ASB, is in charge of the dance and the entertainment. Miss Flanagan has announced that some different type of entertainment will be featured during the intermission of the dance.”
The 1952 "Tequesquite" yearbook ran the photo below of the dance. The caption read:

“This congenial group seems to be enjoying the A.S.B. Christmas Formal which took place in the Mission Inn’s Music Room.”
It is 1 year and 11 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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