Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

The Riverside City College Christmas Formal was a dance 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 1949 Christmas Formal was reported in this December 13, 1949 article from the “Tiger Times” student newspaper. It read:

“The night of December 16 will find the Music Room of the Mission Inn the scene of swirling formals and white collars. Bud Foskett and his band who was so popular at the graduation prom last summer, will once again play for the Riverside College students, when they dance in the Music Room from nine to twelve o’clock. The Annual Christmas Formal, sponsored by the Associated Student Body, is under the general direction of Lyle Loshbough, A.S.B. social chairman. Gamma Nu Sorority will be in charge of decorations, Sigma Alpha Sorority will make the dance programs, and A.W.S. will serve the refreshments. The tickets are being sold in a booth on the campus this week, according to Loshbough, who is in charge of sales. The tickets are $1.50 without A.S.B. cards, but they are only $1.00 to cardholders. This promises to be one of the best dances of the year, according to committee members who urge a big turnout.”

The 1950 yearbook described the college events of December 1949:
“DECEMBER brings rain, mud and the holiday motif along with final examinations. It is a month for studying both books and weather charts—what with a couple of vacation weeks for working, shopping and hitting the highway. By December the various organizations of the campus have quit wrangling over prospective members. Initiation stunts are over, for the most part; new acquaintances have become full-fledged friends. Club social calendars fill in the gaps between student body functions, and there is considerable rivalry among groups to present the most popular shin-dig. Campus habits are pretty well formed by December: Same people on same benches, usually eating or slurping coffee—good to the last drop, but oh that last drop!”

The caption and three photos of the 1949 Christmas Formal below ran in the 1950 yearbook.

“THE CORSAGE, the formal . . . preliminaries, but important ones to the big event. Maybe you can find yourself at the Christmas formal. Purchasing a floral token is Avery Speer. He has Peggy Dexter in mind.”
It is 1 year and 13 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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