April 7, 2014

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Next week, April 14-18, is Riverside City College’s 2014 Spring Break. This vacation period has been a collegiate “Rite of Spring” for many decades. RCC’s 1958 Spring Break was prominently reported in that year’s “Tequesquite” yearbook. The following are photos and text from this coverage. The photo section was introduced with the following;

“HIGHLIGHT OF THE SPRING SEASON for students-and for faculty too, if the truth be known-is usually that time of gay irresponsibility known as Easter Vacation. But many other activities are crowded into the busy spring months too. It is a time of horseplay and of madcap student antics, on and off the campus. It is also, perhaps unfortunately, a time when the work seems to pile up and term papers compete with fragrant spring breezes for the attention of students and teachers alike.”

The caption for the top photo below read:

“CHAIN GANG - Racing hand in hand through the surf was fun too, and more than a bit strenuous. Left to right, these brave people are Bert Wilson, Judy Robertson, Arlene page (a high school student), Sharon Heiliger, Lorene Geisel, Toni Di Betta, and Mac Davis.”

For the second photo:

“SUN WORSHIPPERS – Acquiring beautiful tans are Ramona Brown, Jean Moxon, Josie Pittruzella, Pat Kelly and Marjorie Pankratz. The beach at Laguna Beach appeared to be the haven for Riverside this year.”

The full-page photo below was captioned:
“NON-BATHING BEAUTIES - Sun worshippers are, from the front and left to right, Claudia Ragus, Carol Walther, (Counselor) Miss Mary Jane Flanagan, Susan Brewster, Steve Tatum, Linda Repp, Pat Swanson, Gayle Wallace, Joan Bauman, Jan Gebhart, and Eleanor Zweig.”

In a second account of Spring Break in the yearbook, it was written:

“SCIENTISTS SPEAK of the vernal equinox, but young men and young women don’t need to be astronomers to know that spring is here. The rains come (and how they came this year!), the mercury climbs and warm breezes caress the cheek, the scent of orange blossoms hangs heavy in the air. And somehow it becomes more difficult than ever to concentrate on textbooks when in even the most remote vicinity of the Opposite Sex.”

“LIKE THE BIRDS, college students in the spring yield to the urge to migrate. Their journeys take them almost invariably to the sea, where they rest up for the rigors of year-end activities with long lazy days in the sand, punctuated by brief immersions in the still of rigid ocean water. Energetic souls hunt for hermit crabs in tidal pools, but the only real work anyone can muster up enough strength to perform is to whip up three square meals a day.”

Captions for the photos below:

(Upper left corner) “BRRRR! – Judy Robertson gets the full benefit of the chilly surf.”

(Upper right corner) “HUNTERS – Mary Lou Wilson and Sheila McMahon look at some of those wiggly things found at low tide.”

(Lower left corner) “RELAXATION – Claudia Ragus and Carol Walther doze to the rhythmic lullaby of the surf.”
(Lower right hand corner) “SMELLS GOOD – Carolyn Wendelin shows the effects of beach air on the appetite while Pat Kelly and Charlotte Hicks prepare supper.”

The illustration below appeared in the April 1, 1959 issue of the “Tiger Times” student newspapers. It displays various spring break locales and the fraternities and sororities that inhabited them.
The “Countdown” series will be on its own “spring break” next week. After a one-week hiatus, the next one will appear on Monday April 21, 2014.

It is 1 year and 49 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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