May 19, 2014

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

This year, Memorial Day will be celebrated across the United States on Monday May 26th. During the 1943-44 Riverside Junior College school years, news was covered by the “Arroyo” student newspaper. Seen below is the staff of that publication. The advisor was Robert Patton (English, Journalism, Yearbook Advisor 1931-1961).

![Arroyo Student Newspaper](image)

Obviously on the minds of the students of the day was World War II. Many photos of former Riverside Junior College students, then serving in the military, were published. Below are all the photos that appeared in issues of the “Arroyo” in the 1943-44 school year. Reflecting the fact that a number of former students had married after joining the service are the two photos below. On the left are Raymond Francis Engleman and Imogene Poor. Engleman was president of the Kappa Epsilon Fraternity during the 1942-43 school year. On the right are Mary Hannah and Ensign Orin S. Thresher. Both went to RJC. Thresher was the 1942-43 student body president.

![Campus Romance](image)

Below are four brothers that attended RJC and then joined the military. The Shade brothers were all members of the Army Air Force. The top two are: Sgt. "Pat" Shade and Lt. Earl H. Shade. The bottom two are Capt. Meredith Shade and Lt. Carson L. Shade. Three other members of the family (Autumn, Audrey and Merle) also attended the college.
Two more sets of brothers are seen below. The top two are: Lt. Paul W. Jeffrey (USNR) and Sgt. Russel B. Jeffrey (Army). The bottom two are Cpl. Victor Harris and Pfc. Benjamin Harris. Both of the Harris brothers joined the Army Air Force.
The four below had sports connections to RJC. In the top row: David W. Wheeler starred in football and baseball. Lt. Charles Wooding was the former editor of the “Arroyo” Sports page. In the bottom row, Wayne “Thumper” Wilson was described as a “sports star” and Ensign Clyde H. Jeffrey was credited as being the “greatest sprinter and quarter-miler in the history of the college”.

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**Lt. Paul Jeffrey**
Riverside brothers in Air Corps—Riverside brothers, Cpl. Victor E. Harris and Pfc. Benjamin Harris, former JC students, are now in the Army Air Force. Corporal Harris took his training at Kerno, Utah, and is now in England serving as an armorer with a fighter squadron. Ben Harris took his training at Miami Beach, Florida, and is now an aircraft mechanic at Marfa, Texas.
The six below also served during WWII. In the top row were Lt Roger Brague who was first pilot of a Liberator B-24 bomber, Ensign Andrew W. Dithridge who graduated from Naval Indoctrination School at Harvard and Lt. Norman Brouse of the Army Air Forces who was at the time stationed at the Carlsbad Army Air Field in Carlsbad, New Mexico. In the second row were: Wave Lennette Card. She had the rating of pharmacist second class and was stationed at the Naval Dependents Clinic in Memphis, Tenn. Next to her was Wave Mary Jennet Holmes who was also a pharmacist mate second class. She was stationed at the U.S. Naval Hospital at Treasure Island. On the lower right hand corner was First Lt. James Sweeney who was listed as being a prisoner of war in Germany.
Below is Merle Fraley who was taking aviation training in Pensacola, Florida. Next to him is Spencer Cockerham who was on a 30-day furlough. Below them are Robert P. Stebbins Jr. and Lewis A. Wickens, two former RJC students that received their Silver Wings after graduating from the Army’s Air Force advanced flying school at Williams Field in Chandler, Arizona.
Six more former Riverside Junior College students serving in the military were (top row) Eugene D. Wheeler, Lloyd Robert Sallot, Everett Capes and (bottom row) Joseph Geisel, Jack L. Ward and Robert L. Renck.
The somber side of wartime was reported below. On the left was Ensign William Creamer who was reported as missing in action in June 1942 in the Battle of Midway. Only one member of his squadron returned from the mission. One year later he was officially declared dead. The article told of the construction of a destroyer escort vessel that was to be named in his honor. On the right is Lt. Donald Keith Emerson who was killed in a plane crash during a flight from Australia to Port Morsby, New Guinea.

Two more casualties of WWII were Pfc. Edward Kenley who died of wounds received while serving with the paratroops in the South Pacific and Charles R. Cox who passed away in an English hospital.
It is 1 year and 42 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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