Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Continuing the summer “Countdown” look at stories appearing in “Riverside City College Reports”, here is an overview of Volume 2, Number 1. RCC President Ralph Bradshaw, in his “President’s Corner” column spoke of the increase in student population and how that growth was being dealt with. He wrote:

“As we begin this spring (1967) semester we are accommodating 3240 day students in classrooms that were adequate at best for about 2000. Next fall we may face 4000 day students.”

To meet that challenge, Bradshaw mentioned that the campus development project which had begun in mid-1965, with the demolition of the old Poly High buildings, was at the half-way mark and would be completed by September 1968. These additional facilities would increase the campus capacity of students from 2000 to 4500 day students. To the right is an article about how the District planned to deal with future growth. They were inviting nominations from the public for a committee of citizens to study the future needs of the District and to make plans to meet those needs. To meet the future requirements for classroom space, the Board of Trustees purchased a tract of land at the corner of La Sierra and Riverside Avenue for a second campus. The photo shows the land acquired by the district. The proposal for a second campus at the La Sierra location did not work out largely because the State of California refused to help pay for the new campus because it was located too close to the original campus. Alternate plans for the property by the District were met with community opposition and the proposed second campus within Riverside city limits was never built.

An expanded report on the RCC campus construction was presented on page two. In part the article read:
“The biological science building is scheduled for completion by the end of June (1967), physical science in October, library and student center in February of 1968. Final drawings are being prepared for the landscape, walks and paving on the promontory. Construction on this project is slated to begin in March (1967), and essential walkways will be completed by the start of the fall (1967) semester. The remodeling of Wheelock Gymnasium will be finished in April (1967). Already the basketball floor and the bleachers have progressed far enough so that the Tigers are able to play out their home Eastern conference schedule on their own floor. The Board also has authorized architects to proceed with plans for remodeling Wheelock Stadium to make it more suitable for the men’s physical education and intercollegiate athletics programs. Following structural investigation, the architect was directed to plan minor structural revisions and provide new ramps, parapets, and a press box to meet state safety standards. Among the major projects already in use are the former Poly shops, which have been substantially remodeled, and now house drafting classes and the college’s graphic arts, electronics and automotive mechanics programs. In operation since last summer has been a new Admissions and Counseling Center, housed in the former Poly administration building, which has been remodeled and enlarged.”

Below is a January 1967 photo of the Clock Tower and Life Science building under construction.

The article below foreshadowed future events in RCCs expansion. In the 1980s the Corona/Norco and Moreno Valley areas were annexed into the Riverside Community College District. The story below indicates that RCCD had made overtures to Perris, Elsinore and Corona to join the district as early as the mid-1960s.
Overcrowding and lack of space to expand at the old Quadrangle Library (today known as Quad 144) caused the Library staff to move some of the overflowing book collection to “Harvard”, “Princeton” and “Yale”. These, of course, were not the Ivy League schools but were three converted homes that were purchased by the District. These structures were located in the general area where the Salvatore Rotella Digital Library and Learning Resources Center is today. “Harvard” was a frame building on Terracina Drive that housed over-sized volumes, bound magazines, biographies and books for browsing. Library patrons had ready access to these materials for reference or for check out. “Yale” and “Princeton” were off-limits to students and housed books that had little circulation. Only the Library staff had access to these two structures. They would make several trips a day to them to retrieve books that had been requested by students.

The RCC Intern programs in journalism, graphic arts, automotive mechanics and distributive education were profiled in this page six article which read in part:

“The oldest of these programs is in journalism, where several students are employed at the Riverside Press or Enterprise. One serves as a reporter and feature writer in the women’s department, one as a general sports reporter, and others as photo lab assistants or copy boys. Most graphic arts interns are also employed by the Riverside Press or Enterprise. Automotive mechanics students have been placed in a number of garages and automobile agencies in the Riverside area. Largest intern program is in distributive education, which has placed more than thirty students in wholesale and retail business in this area. Largest single employer of RCC interns is Sears. In all of these programs, a member of the college faculty checks frequently on the progress of each student. At least once a semester, the employer makes a detailed written report on each of the interns. Students must be enrolled in at least one other course in the department as well as in his intern class, so that he can be given whatever additional instruction his employer feels he needs.”
The efforts of two former RCC faculty members who were establishing scholarships and other awards were featured in this page eight article. It read, in part:

“Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger, emeritus professor of biology and zoology has provided for scholarships of $25 each to two returning male students majoring in biological science and to two returning male students majoring in the earth sciences. The awards will be made available in the form of a credit at the college bookstore to be applied to the purchase of books. At Riverside City College from 1922 until 1952, Dr. Jaeger now is the curator for plants at the riverside Municipal Museum. Fleming Smith (not pictured), emeritus professor of business has been joined by Mrs. Smith in donating two awards, which were presented last year for the first time. One goes to the song leader with the highest scholastic average, and the second to the young man who best represents the spirit of the college.”
It is 1 year and 37 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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