Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Concluding this summer's "Countdown" looks at stories appearing in "Riverside City College Reports", is this overview of Volume 4, Number 3 from June 10, 1969. One article gave the results of the first RCCD Trustees election since its formation in 1964. Incumbents Albert Brown Jr. and Dr. Wilfred Airey were reelected. Brown would continue to serve on the Board until 1977. In 1978 he was named the RCCD’s twenty-second Alumnus of the Year. That same year he was elected Mayor of the City of Riverside, serving three terms until 1990. Airey had the second longest tenure of any member of the RCCD Board of Trustees serving 26 years until 1990. The second article profiled RCC Commencement speaker Roberta Ringstrom.

1969 featured two Alumni of the Year. A page two article profiled Harold Butterfield. It read:

"Harold Butterfield, recently retired as superintendent of the Fred C. Nellis School for Boys in Whittier, will be honored as RCC’s distinguished alumnus of the year at graduation exercises tonight at 6 p.m. on Wheelock Field. When his friends assembled in Whittier last spring to honor Butterfield at his retirement, there were in attendance lawyers and judges, business leaders and doctors, teachers and ministers. Most of these were present or former coworkers, but among virtually each of the vocational groups were former students of Butterfield who had come to show their affection for the man who had set their feet back on the pathway to respectability and service to society. These were the men who have a uniquely intimate understanding of why Butterfield won resolutions of commendation from the California State Senate and Assembly, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors, and numerous professional organizations, and especially why he merited the Koshland Award for outstanding social work administration. His was only the second award to go to an administrator in a correctional institution. It was his love for boys that led Butterfield, then deputy director of the Department of the Youth Authority in Sacramento to resign his office bound position, voluntarily take a substantial pay cut, and accept the superintendency of the Whittier school so he could work directly with boys in trouble. Butterfield attended Riverside Junior College from the fall of 1924 through the spring of 1926 and then transferred to UC Berkeley. He left two years later, and although six units short of a degree he was admitted to Boalt School of Law of the University of California. But Butterfield never
quite made it to law school. That summer he went to work for the Riverside County Probation Department, working
directly under the late C. W. Mathews. Becoming county probation officer upon Mathews’ retirement in 1945,
Butterfield remained in Riverside until May 1, 1953, when he was “loaned” to Sacramento to make a study of state
correctional schools. Twenty days later he was made deputy director of the Department of the Youth Authority,
which operates the state’s correctional schools. He held that position until September 1, 1958, when he asked to be
relieved of his duties and placed in charge of the new Fred C. Nellis School. Although he took a substantial pay cut,
Butterfield was getting “cabin fever;” he felt the need to get out in the field where he could work directly with boys.
Butterfield displayed this same interest in people while he was a two year college student. He organized and
became president of the Junior Lions, and he was also elected student body president. A noted athlete, Butterfield
played both football and basketball in his freshman year. As a sophomore he limited himself to football, but
remembers with pride that it was that year that Riverside won four conference championships — in football,
basketball, baseball, and track. He captained the grid team that year, and recalls with satisfaction beating Pasadena
for the Southern California crown. Modesto was to have met the Tigers for the state championship, but forfeited
the game. Harold and his brother Odie had a famous seven-passenger Cadillac in those days. It was known as the
Men’s Cottage, perhaps partly because it served as a lunchroom for the Butterfields and their friends. They took the
whole basketball team on its out-of-town trips, and a generous student body paid them all of three cents a mile for
this service. Born in Oklahoma, Butterfield moved with his family to Colorado when he was only nine months old. He
stayed there until the family moved again, this time to Riverside, when Harold was 11. He attended Grant School
(when it was a two story building) and Poly High (which had all boys at that time). He and his wife Aimee now live in
Rancho Mirage. A daughter, Mrs. Lois Snodgrass, lives in Eureka. Son Robert H. lives in Lodi and works for the
Youth Authority. Steven M. is employed in the computer division of General Electric. Virginia, the youngest of the
Butterfield children, is a junior at Humboldt State College. Even in retirement, Butterfield is a busy man. He is a
member of the Juvenile Justice Commission of Riverside County, he serves as an alternate on the Agencies
Formation Commission, and he is a member of the Recreation Commission at Rancho Mirage. As he looks back on
a career spent studying youth, how does he compare today’s troubled children with those of earlier generations?
They’re really not much different. Today’s kids, he says, have more free time, more money, and particularly do they
have fewer limits set for them. The adult world should let young people know where they stand, and it should set a
good example by itself living up to the values it sets for its youth. And Butterfield ought to know. Doing just that has
made his life a beacon which has guided a lot of boys to solid achievements after getting off to some pretty bad
starts.”

The second Alumnus of the Year was awarded posthumously to Major-General Robert F. Worley. A page three told
his story:

“The first distinguished alumnus award ever to be presented posthumously will be made tonight to Major-General
Robert F. Worley, who attended the College from 1937 to 1939. Gen. Worley was shot down and killed last July
while on a volunteer photo reconnaissance mission over South Vietnam. At that time, he was vice-commander of
the Seventh Air Force and was scheduled to become deputy chief of staff operations, headquarters Pacific Air
Force. Taking aviation cadet training at March Field in 1940, Worley went on to fly 120 combat missions in World
War II. After the War, he commanded the jet training school at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona and served as director of operations for U.S. Air Forces in Europe. He was awarded the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters. He had also been decorated by the Vietnamese government. Gen. Worley’s brother, Dr. Donald L. Worley, Riverside dentist, will accept the award on behalf of the family."

In the spring of 1969 the RCC Library building was dedicated in honor of slain Civil Rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The caption for the page four photo below read:

“DEDICATION—Charles Beatty, minister of legal affairs for the Black Student Union, delivers invocation at dedication of Martin Luther King Library. Standing from left to right are other program participants — Clarence Muse, who delivered dedicatory remarks; Ervin Sapp, who sang "The Impossible Dream" as a benediction; Clabe Hangan, who played and sang soul music which set the mood for the occasion; Alan D. Pauw, secretary of the Board of Trustees; Mayor Ben Lewis; Albert C. Brown, Jr., Trustee president; Librarian Harry Bach, and RCC President R. H. Bradshaw.”
Two RCC faculty members retired during the 1968-69 school year, Denton Titus (Associate Professor, Electronics 1952-1968) and Winifred Turner (Associate Professor, Library 1961-1968). A page six article reported on their RCC careers.

“Associate Professors Denton Titus and Winifred Turner will retire this year and be awarded the titles of professor emeritus at tonight’s graduation exercises. Titus will be ending a career in June that began in an elementary school in Arroyo Grande and continued for more than 40 years. Originally coming to Riverside as an electric shop teacher at Central Junior High in 1939, Titus moved to the other end of Fairfax Avenue and joined the college staff in 1952 as its first electronics instructor. Since then, two full time teachers have been added to that department. He interrupted his teaching to serve three years as an electronics technician in the Navy during World War II. He has no special plans for retirement, other than to take short trips with his wife Florence. Many of them will be to visit their two daughters, Mrs. Lita Royse of Pomona, and her five children and Mrs. Jeanne Peters of Cupertino and her three children and two and a half year old granddaughter (Prof. Titus’ great granddaughter.) Mrs. Turner, who came to RCC as a reference librarian in 1961 after two years at Poly, began her career as a high school Spanish teacher in Fremont, Ohio. Mrs. Turner says she is not so much retiring as she is ‘changing lanes in the freeway.’ She will now have time to develop an interest in writing nonfiction for children. Farthest advanced, she says, is a book with the working title, ‘Pets Are People.’ Mrs. Turner has two sons, Orison, an engineer in private practice in Riverside, and Mark W. Turner, an engineer with Pontiac Motor Company, who lives with his two children in Union Lake, Michigan. Looking back on her career in education, Mrs. Turner feels that RCC has provided an ideal atmosphere for a teacher to “do his own thing,” to serve students and the community in the way he feels most fitted. She is gratified that she was able to help plan and to work in the new library, and she is pleased that she could teach the first course in the Library Technology program. Mrs. Turner wants her friends to know that after summer school, her address will be at 306 High Street, Apartment 12, Fremont, Ohio 43420.”
It is 1 year and 28 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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