



August 4, 2014

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Continuing this summer's "Countdown" looks at stories appearing in "Riverside City College Reports", is this overview of Volume 3, Number 4 from June 11, 1968. Ralph Bradshaw (RCC President 1963-1972) in "The President's Corner" celebrated the passage of Proposition 2 (providing additional state funds to junior colleges) but also lamented the tragic assassination of Presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy. He wrote:

"As a nation we seem to be far more successful at manipulating things than at understanding people. We can approach the problems of putting men in space with great vigor and knowledge. We have not brought the same effort and understanding to bear on our problems of human conflict. Over the past four years we have largely succeeded in rebuilding our college campus, and we now appear to have received the support of California to continue providing facilities. Over those same years we have increased our effort to enhance the quality of our lives and to learn a little more about how to live together without violence. But, quite obviously, we have only made a beginning. As much remains to be done as our intelligence and human spirit can conceive. We will come to the end of another academic year on Tuesday evening. The graduating class of 1968 will once again be larger than its predecessor, much larger. My hope is that it may also be much wiser. And that we, as a college, may continue to increase wisdom and human understanding at something more closely approaching the rate which our society needs so desperately."

The headline article told the story of June 1968 RCC Commencement speaker Monica Curry:

"Some of her best friends are horses and dogs; she likes to play classical music on the piano; she loves to draw, especially charcoal portraits; she writes poetry and TV dramas, so far for her own amusement; she had a grade point average of 3.8 at the end of her freshman year, and last semester she received nothing but A's at the same time that she served as Tiger Times editor. She won a state news writing award for her first major Tiger Times story, one on RCC's ASB membership problem; she has been granted a Riverside Foundation Scholarship; she has been named winner of the Harry Dangerfield Memorial Book Award; she was one of the college's 11 Women of Distinction; and now she caps all of these honors by being chosen by her fellow members of the RCC chapter of Alpha Gamma Sigma, statewide junior college scholarship society, to be the 1968 graduation speaker. She is Monica Curry, the daughter of Mrs. Phyllis Curry, 8171 Janis Street, Riverside. In addition to her other honors, Miss Curry somehow found time to serve as news editor and managing editor of the Tiger Times in her freshman year and perform the duties of copy editor for the Spectator in the spring semester of this year. She is social chairman for the ASB and president of the Riverside chapter of Beta Phi Gamma, journalism honorary society. She also represented Riverside in the regional competition for the Bank of America's Man and Woman of the Year. She is a life member of Alpha Gamma Sigma. Miss Curry will speak on Political Awareness at the commencement exercises, which will be held on Wheelock Field at 6 p.m. today. She can speak with some authority on this subject, for a paper on The Future of the Republican Party, which she wrote as a Ramona High School senior, was published by the Republican Central Committee and distributed widely to party workers in the area. She has been secretary of the Young Republicans Club, and she now works as an assistant to Norton Younglove, Riverside city councilman from the Fourth Ward. Tonight's versatile speaker plans to transfer to UCR next fall and complete a major in political science. Then she wants to become a television news broadcaster and political analyst. Eventually she hopes to work her way into TV drama and screen writing."

RCC Reports

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The President's Corner

I write this message June 5, 1968. Our statewide campaign for Proposition 2 appears to have carried in yesterday's voting, and normally there would be cause for the satisfaction which attends a successful effort. But no one can recall June 5, 1968 with any real degree of satisfaction in the face of the tragic events of this day. Now, just twelve hours after the violence, Senator Kennedy's life hangs in the balance, and as a nation we are once again in that state of shock and disbelief that we are experiencing with increasing frequency over the past few years.



NOT MUCH HELP—Frances Carr, chosen to deliver the graduation speech tonight, was nervous from taking her first recitations, but she shows how best she made up for it—by working on her address. She's not getting much help—her eyes speak loudly—see how busy, on the left, are from Chantrelle, on the right. There's another dog, TALI, outside chasing pecking birds. Her dogs are only one among the secrets Mrs. Carr's holds.—RCC Photo by John Klumpp.

Versatile Journalist Named '68 Commencement Speaker

Frances Viola Fay Mills was the tenth RCC Alumnus of the Year and the first woman to be awarded this honor. She was profiled in a page two article:

"A registered nurse and currently a senior communicable disease investigator for Los Angeles County, Mrs. Mills began her career as a nurse in Peking Union Medical College, but has spent most of her professional life as a special investigator for first Los Angeles City and now with Los Angeles County public health departments. In 1967, Mrs. Mills was named the outstanding county employee of the year by the Los Angeles County Employees Association, and subsequently she was designated the outstanding county employee for the entire state of California. In 1962, she received a special citation from the Los Angeles Health Commission for helping stem a typhoid outbreak. In her career, she has worked with patients or other individuals suffering from Hansen's disease, tuberculosis, and diphtheria. Currently she is specializing on problems relating to alcoholism. Mrs. Mills began her career with a brief tour of private duty in Southern California, and then, following a vacation tour of China conducted by Upton Close, a personal friend of her family, she joined the staff of the hospital at Union Medical College in Peking, China. For all her honors, and for all her years in Asia and metropolitan Los Angeles, Mrs. Mills still has roots deep in Riverside. Educated in Riverside Schools Born Frances Viola Fay, the daughter of Courtland H. and Gertrude B. Fay, the future Mrs. Mills spent her childhood in the family home on south Orange Street, near Fifteenth, virtually within sight and sound of Wheelock Field, where she will receive her Outstanding Alumna plaque. She attended Grant School, then graduated from Girls High School on what became the Poly High campus and which has given way to the new college buildings which now rise on the promontory. Viola Fay enrolled at Riverside Junior College in 1924 as a pre medical major, but shifted the following year to the "co-op" program, through which she took nurse's training at Riverside Community Hospital. She was graduated from the college in June and received her nursing diplomas from the hospital in September, 1927."

Frances Mills First Woman Alumna of the Year

A life-long and world-wide career devoted to the ministrations to or the prevention of the ills of mankind has won for Frances Viola Fay (Mrs. Archibald) Mills a number of distinctions, not the least of which is designation as Riverside City College's Alumna of the Year for 1968. She is the first woman to win that honor.

The award will be presented to Mrs. Mills tonight during commencement exercises. This is a departure from the earlier practice, which has been to make the presentation at the annual Awards Assembly immediately following the graduation breakfast.



FRANCES VIOLA FAY MILLS . . . Alumna of the Year

Along with the construction of the Life and Physical Science Buildings, Student Center, Library and Planetarium on the promontory, the Quadrangle was undergoing a renovation. A page four article told of the makeover:

“Extensive remodeling now underway in the Quadrangle will have little effect on its picturesque exterior, but it will make the building conform to Field Act earthquake safety standards and provide more usable space for classrooms and faculty offices, reports Campus Architect Dale V. Bragg. The east wing, where construction activity is now concentrated, will house the English Division, including basement headquarters for journalism and photography. These facilities will be ready for use by the beginning of the fall semester. Plans are currently being developed for demolition and replacement of the northwest corner of the Quad. Relatively minor structural changes will also be made in the southwest corner. Home Economics will continue to occupy its present facilities, but the remainder of the west wing will be devoted primarily to social science classrooms and faculty offices. Most business courses will be given next fall in the classroom wing of the Administration Building. Room 121 already has been equipped as an office practice laboratory, and three other classrooms will be wired for business machines as soon as summer school is over. Data processing will be moved to the former Poly library. On the promontory, the college has accepted the Life Science and Physical Science Buildings. Both the Library-Planetarium and the Student Center will be ready for occupancy by mid-summer. Landscaping on the promontory is underway and should be completed by September. Now in Sacramento are applications for state funds to help remodel the former Poly dance studio to house art classes and laboratories and also to remodel the former Poly music building, part of which has been used as a bookstore, to house music classes. A landscape architect has been commissioned to design the grounds inside and outside the Quad, and another architect has been assigned to the parking lots and principal campus entrances. The college has now completed its second year of occupancy of the former Poly shop buildings, which were extensively modernized and equipped to house automotive technology, electronics, and graphic arts laboratories and engineering drawing classrooms. The campus development program has been financed in part from the local bond issue of 1962 (which also provided funds for the purchase of a site for a second campus on the Riverside Freeway at La Sierra), and in part from substantial grants from state and federal governments. It is expected that Proposition 2 money will be used to complete some of the work on the present campus and make a start on the second site.”

Remodeling Brings Quad to Field Act Standards



CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS—Photograph taken in former chemistry laboratories shows (1) virtually completed demolition of interior partitions and removal of outmoded and unneeded fixtures, (2) installation of new plumbing just under ceiling, and (3) slot cut in ceiling and floor (partially bridged by scaffolding at the right) through which new seismic wall will run from the top of the building to its foundation. The wall ties the building together during a possible earthquake and prevents “shearing,” the cause of structural damage during seismic disturbances.

It is 1 year and 31 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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