



October 26, 2015

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Al Boyd was the Head Athletic Trainer and Equipment Manager at Riverside City College for 34 years from 1961 to 1995.

Below is a 1963 "Tequesquite" yearbook photo of Boyd taping the ankle of R.C.C. Basketball player Bob Glasgow.

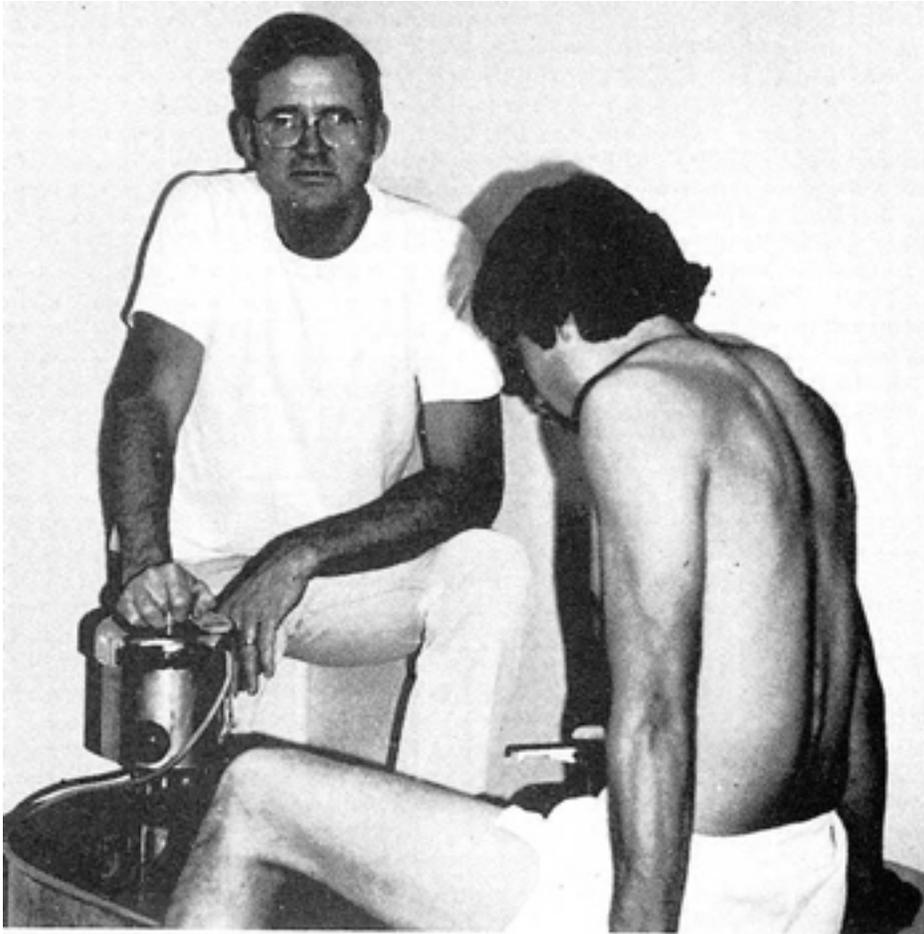


TRAINER Al Boyd tapes Bob Glasgow as assistant coach Ken Krivanek looks on.

In the March 26, 1976 issue of the "Viewpoints", the headline below appeared over an article profiling Al Boyd, Franz Gerich and Jerry Huffaker of the RCC Athletic Department. It was written by Sports Writer Tim Crowell.

Backstage men help RCC athletics to tick

Below is a photo of Al Boyd that ran with the article.



AL BOYD
Trainer- Manager

(Staff Photo by Larry Mares)

Below is the section that dealt with Al Boyd.

Al Boyd's job title is "Athletic Trainer-Equipment Manager" and his vocation is just what the name implies. He takes care of the needs of the varsity players (taping, first aid, etc.) and is responsible for recommending the purchasing of equipment as well as running a small laundry in the varsity team room which cleans the uniforms for the school teams. "We do any care that is prescribed by a physician, but we don't diagnose or prescribe here," Boyd emphasized. Despite the seriousness of his work, Boyd, who has been here since 1961, keeps a positive stance. "I really enjoy my work or else I would have quit a long time ago," he said. "You have to enjoy sports and I've been in sports since I was in school." Two varsity basketball performers walked into the training room during the course of the interview and kiddingly asked: "Why are you doing a story on him? All he ever says is "Strap him up and ice'em down. Yeah, Strap'em up and ice'em down." After the chant, Boyd said sarcastically, "It's guys like that that make your day worthwhile." Boyd's job as trainer requires him to attend all RCC football games and basketball games, which accounts for the hours of overtime. The worse time of the year in his estimation is right now, when so many sports' seasons are underway.

The June 4, 1993 "Viewpoints" ran a profile of Al Boyd. The article was written by Sports Writer Jerry Romano. Below is the headline:



Riverside Community College has a history and tradition of fielding athletes and teams that are comparable to any in the state and even in the nation. The 1992-1993 was no exception. The women's track team captured the state championship for the first time in RCC history and the men finished second. The men's basketball team competed in the state final-four. Basketball standout Lou Williams was selected to the all-state team. He broke the all-time leading-scorer and single-season scoring records. He will continue his college basketball career at Oklahoma. The baseball team competed in the regional playoffs and came within one game of playing in the state finals. Baseball standouts Aric Thomas and Scott Wulfing will attend Oklahoma while Randy Betten will be playing for Arizona State. Christina Waggoner of the women's softball team earned a spot on the all-state team. Vanessa Waggoner had an outstanding year for the volleyball team and will continue her career at Idaho State. These are just a few of the outstanding accomplishments of RCC athletics this year. It is easy to credit the success to talent, determination, hard work, discipline, and excellent coaching. What is easily overlooked is the vital behind-the-scenes role that the trainer and equipment manager plays in assuring that the teams and athletes are able to perform at peak levels. It may be more than just coincidence that RCC success in athletics has thrived, while trainer/equipment manager Al Boyd has been on the job the past 32 years. Al is unique in that he handles both duties of the equipment manager and the trainer. "I'm kind of a relic. Most of it has been divided now," he said. He doesn't mind the dual responsibilities. "I've been doing it so long, I'm just used to it." As the equipment manager he is responsible for procuring and maintaining the equipment of the teams that request it, like football, basketball, and track, to name a few. This includes laundering the daily practice apparel and team uniforms, and replacing equipment such as a damaged football-tackling dummy. As a trainer, his job is to help prevent injuries and treat injuries. This includes taping, wrapping, ice treatments, ultra-sound, whirlpool session, and electronic muscle stimulation. "We evaluate injuries and if it looks like it is bad, then we send them to a doctor," Boyd said. RCC contracts with neighboring S.P.O.R.T. Clinic for X-rays and medical treatment. Boyd is especially appreciative of Jim Clover, Coordinator of the clinic. While a student at Antelope Valley Junior College, Boyd played football and basketball. He transferred to Cal Poly Pomona and focused his athletic talents on basketball. His playing led into the line of work he does now. "I was always interested in sports," he said. "When I was done playing, it was like a carry-over. It kept me in sports." When he came to RCC, there were no certification requirements for trainers. Because he had training and experience as a student-trainer while at Cal Poly Pomona, he was hired at RCC. He has increased his knowledge and expertise through continuing-education programs. Because sports medicine has evolved and advanced since his start 32 years ago, Boyd has seen many changes. "It has changed dramatically. I hope we do it better." He has seen other changes in college athletics, especially in the development of women's athletics. "It took a little getting used to, working with women. Dealing with guys and dealing with women were two different things. Not so much anymore, but it did at that time. But they were very nice. They have come a long way. It's become very competitive." Although Boyd has seen many outstanding athletes and great teams, he recalls the Jerry Tarkanian basketball years as being memorable, winning three straight state

championships. He also mentioned the national football title in 1989 and the state titles in cross country and track. "These are memorable moments, when a team elevates itself to become state champions or to win a bowl game." He especially remembers RCC basketball great Bob Rule who went on to excel at the professional level while playing for the Seattle Supersonics. "Bob Rule always impressed me. He was here when I first got here." Boyd said he is fortunate to have assistant, Terri Rae Torres, who has been on the job the past three years. She is working toward a bachelor's degree so that she can be certified by the National Athletic Trainers Association. She will attend Cal State San Bernardino in the fall. She has completed the required 1,500 hours as a student-trainer. When she completes her degree, she will become eligible to take the test to become certified. Terri Rae loves what she does. "I enjoy working with sports. I like working with people. It is interesting working with a team. Seeing the results can be rewarding. I enjoy working with all the foreign athletes. It is interesting to get to know their culture. What I like most about my job is all the people I work with." The coaches at RCC recognize the value of an equipment manager and trainer. Football coach Barry Meier said, "Al Boyd is invaluable to the program. He is a legend among trainers at the college level." Coach Mike Barnes, women's basketball, shares the sentiment. "It is very reassuring to get the attention that we need. Al has been a steady influence on the program. Terri helps us all the time. She is at most of the women's home games. I am very glad this resource is here." RCC athletic director Jim Kross has known Boyd a long time. "Al is the best in the state. I've with been him as a player, a coach and now as an athletic director. He is the epitome of what a trainer should be and Terri is an added blessing." The next time we see an NBA player slam-dunk a basketball, an NFL quarterback toss a touchdown, or an Olympic athlete break a world record, we should not forget about the help he or she received from an athletic trainer.

Below is a photo Al Boyd and Terri Rea Torres that accompanied the article.



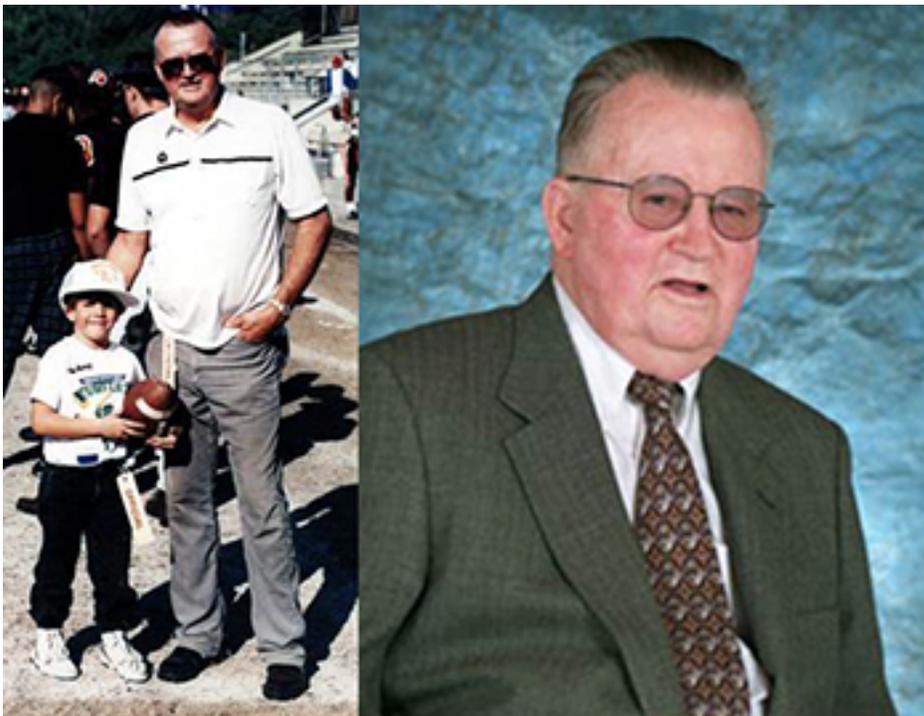
When Al Boyd retired, the following "Viewpoints" article by Bill Mulligan ran on August 21, 1995.

Boyd retires as trainer after 34 years

Trainer Al Boyd has been a longtime legend around Riverside Community College's athletic department. Like most good things coming to the end, the custom of seeing Boyd in RCC's training room is fading since he retired over the summer. During his 34-year career here, Boyd has witnessed the full range of Tigers athletics from state championships to losing seasons. In addition to Boyd's training duties, he served as RCC's equipment manager. He's decided to continue part-time by working 20 hours per week as the equipment manager. "Finding a person, who could handle both positions trainer and equipment is very rare on the community college level," said RCC athletic director Jim Kross. "We are glad that Al is still handling our equipment because he is the only person, who knows where all the equipment is due to his decades of service to this college." As a former athlete and coach at RCC, Kross is plenty familiar with Boyd's work. Kross played here in 1961 and returned as the Tigers' football coach in the 1970s. Whether it was helping the star of the team or a bench warmer, Kross said Boyd treated everyone the same fair way. Boyd's duties grew along with the college. In 1961, RCC only had 2,260 students compared to some 20,000 now. Thirty-four years ago, RCC had just nine men's athletic teams. Now Riverside has 16 teams including six women's sports. Boyd's starting salary was \$5,000 per year. The main reason that Boyd decided to be a Tiger was because RCC outbid Cal Poly Pomona, his former employer. "I was happy with \$5,000 per year at RCC because the cost of living back then was so much cheaper," said Boyd. "The people I have met through RCC are unbelievable. I have a lot of interesting or funny stories involving my job here. That made my job fun. They outweigh those long bus trips and many hours washing athletic uniforms." Recently, RCC threw Boyd a retirement party. About 125 people attended and other mailed thanks to him. The USC equipment manager, Dino Dennis, attended the gathering because he learned from Boyd while being a student here. Since the opening of Riverside's Sport Clinic, Boyd's and his assistant trainers' lives have gotten much easier. "Having the Sport Clinic next door to RCC means a Tiger student-athlete can receive state-of-art medical treatment for their sports injuries by its outstanding doctors, therapists and support staff," Boyd said. "I remembered when nobody knew what sports medicine was. Now in the 1990s, sports medicine is a buzzword around athletics and a very popular college major." Over the past several years, Boyd's workload has been eased a bit with a host of assistant trainers, who helped him in the training room and covered RCC's sporting activities. In recent years, Terri Torres and Bill Dent served as assistant trainers along with a handful of RCC's student trainers. Those extra hands helped when RCC's training staff taped or treated about 130 football players. As far as equipment, Boyd has seen a lot of improvement, mainly with the safety of it. "When I began my training career, a football player stood a good chance of losing a number of teeth, but now players must wear mouth guards," said Boyd. "Helmets are better designed in reducing the risk of major neck injuries. "Most football equipment is lighter, including shoulder pads." Boyd, who is 6-foot-6, grew up in Lancaster and played basketball at Antelope Valley College and Cal Poly Pomona. Boyd took the athlete training job at Antelope Valley High School out of college. In the future, Boyd wants to spend more time with his kids— son Scott and daughters Katie and Lee Ann. Plus, Boyd is looking forward playing with his grandchildren instead of taping ankles.

In 2004, Al Boyd was inducted into the R.C.C. Athletic Hall of Fame. The tribute below was written at that time:

For more than 34 years, Al Boyd was the face that RCC athletes wanted to see when they suffered aches, pains and injuries on the fields and courts. Al joined RCC in 1961 at a time when athletic trainers were a rarity. An athletic storekeeper at Cal Poly Pomona, Boyd was looking for a place to put his skills into action. A chance comment during a city league basketball game in Riverside led to an interview with then RCC Athletic Director T. Mark Johnson and college president O.W. Noble. The rest is Tiger athletic history. When he arrived at RCC, Al set about building an athletic training program from the ground up. At that time only men's teams competed, and he remembers the football team fielded only 38 players. Through the years the scene quickly changed as the men's sports program expanded and women's teams started competing in the late 1970s. "RCC was a good place to be," says Al. "I liked the coaches and enjoyed working with the players. We had some great teams." As the head athletic trainer and equipment manager at RCC, Al took care of 13 state champion teams and 54 conference champion teams. During that time, 14 Olympians and 15 future National Football League players passed through the RCC locker rooms. Colleagues estimate that Al provided services for more than 10,000 athletes during his years at RCC. While Al says that all of the wins were notable, when pressed he acknowledges the special memories he has of the 1989 National Football Championship Team (11-0) and the 1985 Women's Basketball State Championship Team (33-0). And he fondly recalls his own playing days at Cal Poly Pomona, a place where he met fellow RCC Hall of Famer Roger Folsom. He holds those and other memories of his RCC days close, saying he wouldn't trade the experience for anything. "Being around athletes and coaches keeps you young," Al says with a grin. "Athletic trainers have the best jobs in the country."



There are 19 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. For copyright purposes, all images originating from Riverside City College publications and the District's Office of Strategic Communications and Relations are the property of the Riverside Community College District.