April 6, 2015

Countdown to Riverside City College’s 100th Anniversary


The text for the article read:

“The dedication of the Quad as a city landmark and the presentation of a slide program depicting the growth and development of RCC will highlight the celebration of RCC’s 65th Anniversary March 14. Founded in 1916, RCC is California’s fifth oldest community college. The eastern and northern wings of the Quad, built in 1924, were the first buildings in the state to be used solely as community college facilities. At a 6 p.m. wine reception in the Quad, the two buildings will be formally dedicated. A dinner will follow in the Student Center. After the dinner, a slide program, ‘RCC in Retrospect,’ will be presented by its producers, Gil Jimenez, RCC history instructor, and Tom Johnson, RCC English instructor. It will take the audience on a journey beginning in 1916 through the growth and development of RCC. The production, to be narrated by Johnson, was put together by the two instructors utilizing past student newspapers and yearbooks as resources. The result of many hours of research and planning, the program is divided into five major periods. The first sub-theme of ‘RCC in Retrospect’ is ‘The Dream Becomes Reality, 1916-1930,’ which illustrates the initial growth of the student body, faculty and campus. Second, ‘The Depression Years, 1931-1941,’ shows that despite the hard times, RCC as an institution was still strong in that it didn’t shrink in size even though growth was curtailed during this period. ‘War and Recovery, 1941-1950,’ makes evident the ‘blitz’ of the student body and faculty by the war. After 1945, the resumption of growth continued with an increase in high school graduates and the return of veterans. The fourth sub-theme, ‘Terracina Tech Becomes Riverside City College, 1950-1964,’ further illustrates the sustained growth of the student body and faculty with an increase in building programs. It was during this period that the Administration and Cosmetology buildings, the Women’s Gymnasium and Cutter Pool were constructed. The final period, ‘Maturity’s Mixed Blessings, 1964-present,’ continues with the further growth of the college population
requiring additional building projects and giving recognition to the mounting problems that accompany rapid growth. The slide program will be available for use by interested groups at RCC and in the community. According to Michael Maas, Dean of Student Services, the slide program will be helpful in the recruiting of new students in the community. In addition to the slide program presentation at the anniversary dinner, John Ross, RCC music instructor, will direct a performance of pop music by students from RCC’s Music Department."

Below is the plaque that identifies the RCC Quadrangle as Landmark #48 in the City of Riverside.

The celebration of RCC’s 65th Anniversary continued into the fall with a week of activities during Football Homecoming. Below is the front page of the December 1981 issue of “Riverside City College Reports”.
A Picnic in the Quad and a well-attended tailgate party highlighted Riverside City College’s week-long schedule of activities for homecoming this year. RCC’s Sunday picnic initiated Homecoming Week, scheduled in a series of events to celebrate RCC’s 65th anniversary. The picnic featured a student art exhibit in the art gallery, performances by the RCC wind ensemble and Chamber Singers, and a showing of the college’s multi-media presentation, ‘RCC in Retrospect,’ which was developed by Tom Johnson and Gilbert Jimenez, associate professors with RCC. Dick Stover, assistant dean of academic services, arts and letters, coordinated the activities on the day of the picnic and also the departmental activities held during the week. Those activities included open class room sessions, displays, open houses, concerts, tours and many more events which commemorated RCC’s 65 years of community service. The week ended with the Homecoming Game, held Saturday, Nov. 21 at Wheelock Stadium. A tailgate party marked the beginning of the day with students, faculty, staff members and members of RCC’s football booster group—Tiger Backers—gathered for pre-game cheer. During the tailgate party, RCC President Charles Kane presented plaques to Bob Goen, former KPRO sports announcer, and to Garland Rose, PRESS—ENTERPRISE sports writer, for their continued media support of RCC’s athletic programs. Half-time activities included a 65th anniversary salute and the crowning of the Homecoming Queen and her court. Crowned queen for the 1981 Homecoming was Lisa Van Voorhis of the Student Nurses organization. Runners-up included in the coronation ceremony were 1st, Sandy Joseph of Alpha Gamma Sigma; 2nd, Jeanine Brennan of the Cosmos Club; and 3rd, Kristy Kane of the Dance Club. The Homecoming Game saw RCC Tigers pitted against Santa Ana College for RCC’s fifth Mission Conference game of the season. Despite a hard
fight, RCC’s bid for the conference title for 1981 dissolved with a 34-27 loss to the Santa Ana Dons. The week’s activities represent a cooperative effort among RCC’s faculty, staff, students and support groups to pay tribute to the college’s continued community service.”

Inside of the issue, there were additional photos:

1. RCC Chamber Singers use the stairway’s acoustics as they perform Sunday.

2. Associate Professor Phil Denham (center) and his wife, Anabel, enjoy the picnic and RCC’s Wind Ensemble. Deputy Superintendent John Matulich and his wife, Carol, are seated to the right.

3. RCC cheerleader Denise Fleury (far left) joins other Tiger fans during the Tailgate Party. John Matulich, Tim Ekno, ASB president; and RCC President Charles Kane also attended the pre-game event.

4. RCC Vice President Emeritus Earl McDermont and Tim Ekno unite the past and the present as they talk during Homecoming.

5. Roger Rickson directs RCC’s Wind Ensemble during their Sunday performance.

6. Associate Dean Evan Vail (left) and his wife, Joanne, with Assistant Dean Dick Stover and his wife, Shirley, relax at the picnic.

7. Garland Rose, PRESS-ENTERPRISE sportswriter (left), and Bob Goen, former KPRO sports announcer (right), display the plaques presented by Charles Kane for their continued media support.

8. Donna Huang, 1980 Homecoming Queen, rides with Earl McDermont, Grand Marshal.
9. Nursing student Lisa Van Voorhis, 1981 Homecoming Queen, is escorted by her father, Dirk Van Voorhis, at the coronation.

10. RCC Dean Mike Maas serves beverages at the picnic to Auston White, Administration of Justice Director, and daughter Julie.

11. Frank Budd, Associate Dean, presents the Mayor’s proclamation for RCC’s nursing program to Mike Taylor, President of the Student Nurses group, and Steve Robitaille, leader of the Vocational Nurses group.

12. Members of the Victoria Jimenez Folklorico dance group perform in the Quad.

13. RCC cheerleader Tammy Andrews (left), RCC’s tiger mascot (Karen Gilbert) and others display school spirit during the game.

14. RCC Tiger Brian Layton moves toward the action during the Homecoming Game.

Next week, “Countdown” will be on hiatus. The next one will appear on Monday April 20, 2015.

There are 48 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.