Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

The observation below is from the Riverside Junior College 1938 “Tequesquite” yearbook and described the activities of one “Miss Co-Ed of R.J.C.” The article perhaps reflects the general attitude towards female students in the 1930s. Below are the photos that accompanied the article:
The article read:

“Our R.J.C. co-ed is perched on top of the wall lining the front steps. A gay laugh trickles forth from her smiling lips as she recites something to a group of eager listeners. A gold football hangs loosely around her neck shining against the background of her soft, fuzzy sweater. Her bright plaid couldn’t have outshone the colorful ‘bobby socks’ which encircled her ankles. A voice shouts, ‘eight o’clock,’ and she jumps to the floor quietly. She prefers crepe soled oxfords to the noisy click, click of high heeled shoes. In class as Miss Co-ed winds her way through chairs and greetings, she stops to chat with each special friend. The instructor waits patiently. When she notices him, she tosses him a cheerful salutation and hurries to her usual place. The young man that is sitting next to her, spends five minutes picking up books and pencils as Miss Co-ed arranges her equipment for the lecture. In the middle of the period the instructor ponders over a certain subject. It is very complex. He would like to have a long report on it. Miss Co-ed looks very wide-eyed and serious. Then she volunteers to take the assignment. After that she apparently feels her complexion needs retouching. With one eye carefully cocked at the instructor and one eye on a mirror that she’s slipped out of her purse she applies the much-needed color. In the middle of the morning Miss Co-ed trots over to the Tiger’s Den. At first she spurns the showcase of candy bars and pastry. A young man comes in and has the heartlessness to enjoy a creamy candy bar right in front of Miss Co-ed. Her attitude is reckless now. She purchases a candy bar and some pastry. She disregards an ‘I told you so’ snicker, by staring intently out of the window. A long shiny automobile, boasting about six women occupants, catches her eye. After quickly consuming the detriments of a trim figure she runs out towards the car. It is far beneath her to tempt her friends with fattening foods. Entering eagerly into a discussion concerning dates, clubs, and the latest best sellers, she soon spends her free period. Too soon, she would say. Miss Co-ed has finished her classes and is walking along the hall without her books. They are following her in the grasp of a tall athletic looking young man who is probably Tom. The two pass the student body office successfully. Then they stop and stare at each other. A look of resignation crosses both their faces. They turn back and peer in the door. A board meeting might be in session. But, no. They both look very happy. As they enter they almost falter under the oppressing silence which greets them. No one notices the couple. Miss Co-ed stands behind an individual who looks like Petrified Thought. Miss Co-ed being a generous soul breaks the silence by offering advice to Petrified Thought. But Petrified Thought only stares stonily. Miss Co-ed decides to wait quietly. . . They are playing bridge. Very late in the afternoon Miss Co-ed enters the library. She moves quietly around the room scanning the titles and pages of books. By the time she leaves, one would say she was being very inconsiderate of Tom. She has three very thick books. Tom, however, who is waiting outside, carries them without fretting. He knows better. That night we find Miss Co-ed at home. She enters the living room to study and with apologies to father she turns off the radio. She gently, but firmly, removes her younger brothers to the back of the house. Then with a final ‘Shhh’ to everyone she opens a notebook and starts reading out loud.”

The above description possibly did fit some of the “Co-eds of R.J.C.” but there were many other activities in which they were involved, as also reported by the 1938 “Tequesquite” yearbook.

The top two photos below show co-eds as members of the “Assembly Choir” and the “Orchestra”. The bottom left photo shows the co-ed members of the “Spectacles Club”. This organization’s members “selected a favorite subject for investigation. Interesting and educational material which they found pertaining to their topic was reported by each one at intervals so that others might become familiar with a varied field of interest such as music, drama, and art.” The bottom right photo is a group called the “Yxaca Club”. It was described
in the yearbook as:

“The Yxaca Club is not purely a social organization. It supports all school activities, as well as activities of other clubs. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas season needy families are supplied with boxes of food and clothing. Among its social activities during the year was a tea party held for faculty members. In this way, the girls were given the chance to know instructors in an unofficial way. By sponsoring a dance at the American Legion clubhouse on Lake Evans, the Club hoped to make enough money to present a Christmas party for poor children. Unfortunately owing to the elements and acts of God, it was impossible to have the party. Each year Yxaca has a formal dinner dance for its members. With proceeds from its carnival booths the club presents the dance. At the carnival, two booths, a shooting gallery, and a lunch stand, furnished the girls with more than enough work.”

The photos and article below are the yearbook’s representation of the residents of “Fraser Hall”, the women’s dormitory:

“There’s a big, grey house on Tenth Street that overflows with laughter, gay voices, and girls. It is Fraser Hall, the women’s co-operative Dormitory which is now in its fifth year of existence. It was established through the efforts of Miss Frances Fraser, dean of women, and has become an invaluable part of the college. The dorm is unique as part of a junior college campus, for no other junior college in California offers a co-operative house for students such as this. At the beginning of the year a set of rules concerning study hours, house duties, closing hours, and other general house regulations is drawn up, and the girls must abide by these or lose their ‘specials’ (special privileges). Since this is a co-operative house, a great deal of the general housework is done by the girls and constitutes a part of their board. The work is divided into ‘house duties’, and one is assigned to each girl. One of the most important aspects of the dorm, however, is the friendly spirit of the residents. When a girl becomes the victim of a bad case of nostalgia, she is immediately surrounded by a
comforting group of chattering room-mates. Or, if her ills are a little worse, such as a broken heart, it can be mended by somebody’s big brother. The dorms motto is, ‘come and bring a friend.’ Which means, of course, that everyone is welcome, but that two are more welcome.”

The top group below is the “College Y.W.” The second group is “W.A.A.” (Women’s Athletic Association).
Below are the women of R.J.C. participating in the sports of Badminton and Tennis:
Basketball, Field Hockey and Archery:
Swimming and Volleyball:

Below are a few random portraits of the graduating “1938 Co-Eds of R.J.C.”.

First row: Sarah Becker, Wilma Gallwas and Verna Gordon.

Second Row: Ablene Lockhart, Virginia Little and Dorothy Mall.

Third Row: Irene Mendoza, Betty Nishimoto and Mary Ochiai.

Fourth Row: Frances Paso, Frances Sanchez and Marjorie Schanz.

Fifth Row: Dorothy Whitmore, Gladys Wilkinson and Jean Williams.
There are 45 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.