

July 2, 2013

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

The 1967 RCCD Alumnus of the Year was Rexford Brandt. Brandt was not only a former student of what was then known as Riverside Junior College but also a former faculty member. Brandt was an RJC student from 1932 to 1934 and taught Art at the college from 1937 to 1946.



While he was a student at RJC, Brandt was editor of the school publication "*Student Varieties*". His contributions added to the publications success in gaining the title of best in its field in Southern California. In a November 15, 1934 issue of "*The Arroyo*" student newspaper, there was an article about his watercolor study "Bay Breeze" winning first place at the Sacramento State Fair. In that same article, his former Art instructor Richard M. Allman (RJC 1928-1935) paid him a tribute saying, "*He was one of our best students last year. Naturally I am very happy and am proud of his achievement*". Allman was the artist behind the stained glass windows in the college's auditorium which once was a part of the Quadrangle. Allman's creativity was recognized beyond the

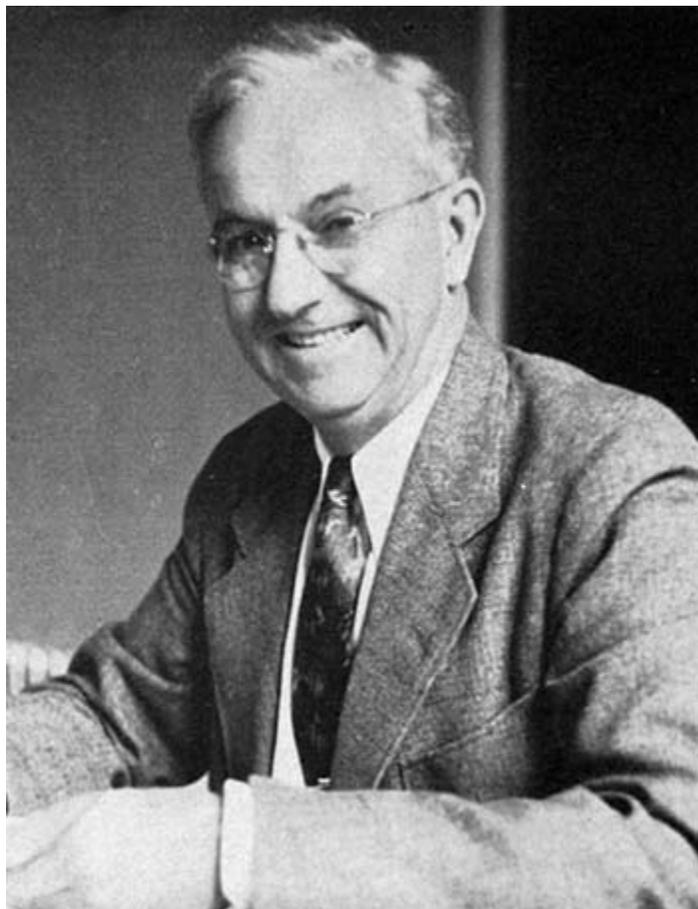
community with a type face of his design adopted by Bullock's for their advertising. In a 1967 interview for "RCC Reports", Brandt said that Allman was a bridge builder between the arts and society. He instilled in Brandt what became one of his chief concerns – the preservation on individuality. Training in Art, Brandt said, provides a bulwark for individuality because it leads a person to perceive accurately and to examine one's own reactions to life. Richard M. Allman is pictured below from the 1932 "Tequesquite" yearbook.



After his 1934 graduation from RJC, Brandt received his bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkley and did graduate work at Stanford University. When he returned to RJC as a professor of Art in 1937, he continued his work in watercolor. In 1941, one of his works of art was featured in "Life" magazine. The photo (below left) appeared in the October 29, 1941 issue of "The Arroyo". The photo (below right) is from the 1941 "Tequesquite" yearbook.



Brandt also expressed an admiration for A.G. Paul (RJC Principal-Director-President 1920-1950). He said Paul gave him magnificent support when he began to lay the foundations for a community art center at Riverside Junior College. Below is a photo of AG Paul from the 1940 "Tequesquite" yearbook.



An example of Brandt's watercolor work can be seen below in an article that appeared in the March 22, 1943 issue of "The Arroyo" student newspaper.

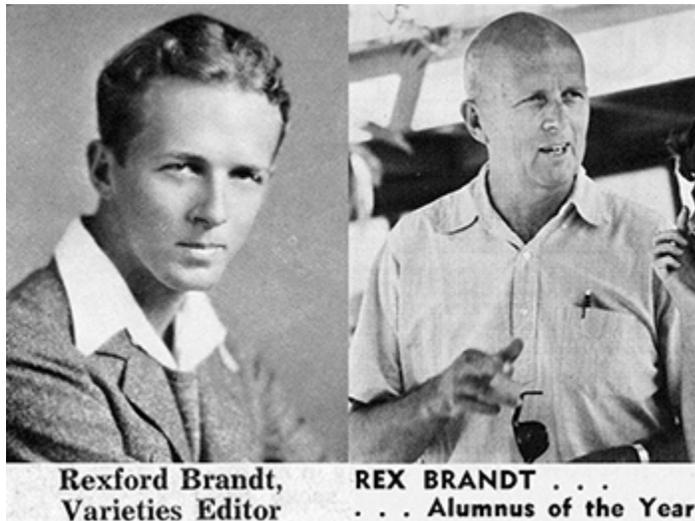


Below are two photos of Brandt as a RJC Professor of Art, from the 1940 and 1942 "Tequesquite" yearbooks.



After leaving RJC, Brandt was one of the original members of the Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission of Newport Beach. He gave the city its official seal and colors, was largely responsible for getting trees planted near the Pavilion, designed its street signs, and helped plan the state beach at Corona Del mar. He served as chairman of the planning commission of the Council of Arts and was a member of the Newport Beach library board. He also worked in commercial art producing artwork for such corporations as the Ford Motor Company, American Airlines and Hallmark Cards. Later on, Brandt was a founder of the Newport Harbor Art Museum and became renowned for his watercolor paintings of Newport Beach and Balboa Bay. E. Gene Crain, who was the foremost

collector of Brandt's paintings, said his works are *"as good as any work in a water-based medium that has ever been painted anywhere at any time."* Below left is a photo of Brandt from the June 13, 1934 issue of 'The Arroyo'. On the right is a photo from the June 1967 issue of "RCC Reports".



It is 2 years and 36 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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