

# PSU honors citizen contributions

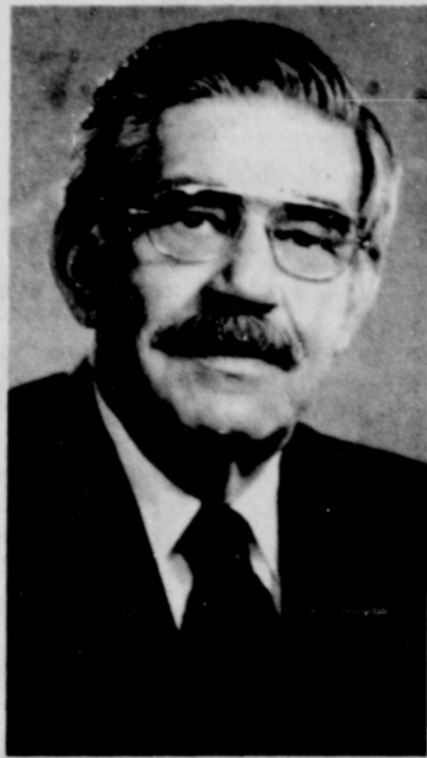
Portland State University will honor three area residents with Distinguished Service Awards for outstanding contributions to the well-being of the community at the University's annual Spring Commencement, June 13, in Memorial Coliseum.

Herbert M. Schwab, retired Judge of the Oregon Court of Appeals; Earl Wantland, President and Chief Executive Officer of Tektronix; and Vernon V. Chatman, Director of Education for the Portland Urban League, will be presented the awards by PSU President Joseph Blumel.

The University presents the awards each year to persons who have made "outstanding contributions to society, particularly to the state of Oregon, beyond those which are implied by the individual's professional career," and who have "demonstrable interest in and commitment to the values which higher education represents."

Judge Schwab, who was born in Portland and graduated from Lincoln High School, earned his law degree from Northwestern College of Law (now Lewis and Clark) in 1939. Following service with the Army during World War II, he began the practice of law in Portland. His legal career included service as Judge of the Multnomah County Circuit Court from 1959 to 1966, and on the Oregon Court of Appeals from 1969 to his retirement in 1981 as Chief Judge.

While engaged in his distinguished legal career, Judge Schwab also was active in community service. He was a member of the Portland School Board from 1950 to 1959, serving three times as Chairman. He also served the School District as a member of its Race and Education Committee in 1963-64. He has served on the State Civil Ser-



JUDGE HERBERT SCHWAB



VERNON CHATMAN



EARL WANTLAND

vice Commission, was Chairman of the Multnomah County Chapter of the Red Cross, was a member of the State Constitutional Revision Commission and the Salem YWCA Board. Most recently, he served for eight months on the Pacific Northwest Power Planning Council.

Earl Wantland has been President of Tektronix since 1971. He has been with the company since the mid-1950s when he began work as a technician. He rose rapidly in the company, spending ten years in Europe helping to establish the electronics manufacturer's overseas operations from 1958 to 1968. He is on the Boards of U.S. Bancorp, Portland General Electric, and Floating Point Systems.

Wantland has been active in United Way, serving as President in

1976 and as Campaign Director this year. He is a strong believer in the volunteer approach to social service and first became involved with United Way when he volunteered to work on the agency's budget. Wantland also is member of the Portland State University Foundation Board and served as Chairman of the American Electronics Association in 1975.

The third Distinguished Service Award recipient this year, Vernon V. Chatman, was one of the organizers of the Portland Urban League in 1945. Originally from Shreveport, Louisiana, Chatman graduated with honors from Dillard University in New Orleans in 1935. He taught school in Shreveport until 1942 when he began work as a warehouse supervisor at Barksdale Airfield there. In 1945, Chatman

moved to Portland to work in the shipyards. He worked for the S.P. & S. Railroad from 1945 to 1968 when he was named Director of Education for the Urban League. He earned an M.Ed. from the University of Portland in 1972.

Chatman has served on numerous educational and civic committees including advisory boards for Concordia College, Portland Community College, Oregon State University School of Engineering, Portland Public Schools, and the Oregon Health Sciences University. At the University of Portland, Chatman counsels and recruits undergraduate students. He has obtained more than \$1 million in scholarships and loans for disadvantaged students and has developed and initiated many programs to assist minority and disadvantaged students.

# Volunteering renews lifemeaning

by Nathaniel Scott.

After working for 30 years for Pacific Power and Light Company, Gerald "Jerry" Dentler was forced to retire when doctors discovered that he had multiple sclerosis.

His marriage of 30 years ended soon after.

Discouraged? Not at all. Dentler, 51 and a Beaverton resident, is finding a new life in volunteerism.

He was a safety inspection engineer for five of his 30 years with PP&L and is now volunteering his time inspecting the buildings and equipment at Meridian Park Hospital and Portland Community College.

While working for PP&L he compiled an enviable record of 25 years without a lost-time accident.

He said that when he was told he had multiple sclerosis (MS), deep states of depression and contemplation of suicide wrecked his marriage. And although his wife offered to stay on as his housekeeper, he filed for the divorce.

After overcoming the initial shock of having MS he contacted Meridian Park Hospital and became a volunteer safety inspector for the hospital.

"After that, I thought I could handle a little more so I contacted Scott Bennett, staff attorney and risk manager at P.C.C. Since then, I have inspected all of Sylvania Campus and about half of Cascade's Campus and before I am through, I will inspect all of P.C.C.'s facilities."

Bennett said Dentler is inspecting everything that relates to safety at P.C.C. He came in looking for something to do and "has been doing a fine job."

Bennett explained that Dentler's volunteerism is just another step in the college's continuous safety inspections which include the liability



GERALD 'JERRY' DENTLER

insurance inspections, the college inspection staff, the fire department inspections as well as other. "The safer you are, the cheaper your insurance premium rate and we are at the bottom," Bennett adds.

Dentler said he needed to feel needed. "That is why I'm volunteering my time." Being active and pro-

ductive has helped him "come out of it."

"I am finding out," he said, "that there is a world out there and that it is a pretty wonderful world."

He summed up his new-found life with, "I've also found out that I can have a social life."

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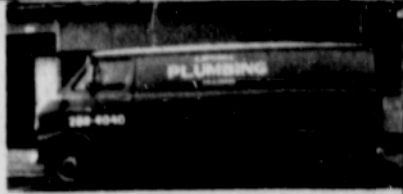
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