

Richard Sanders

Author

Richard Sanders, author of this history, was fittingly one of Portland State's "pioneer" alumni. Richard was a Korean War Veteran who attended school on the GI Bill, the federal government's program to assist veterans in obtaining a higher education. He enrolled in the relocated Vanport Extension Center ("Vanport College") following the 1948 flood that destroyed Vanport City. After the center moved in 1952 to the old Lincoln High School in downtown Portland, Richard continued his education at the newly named Portland State Extension Center, which became Portland State College in 1955. He soon received his BS in English and secondary teaching and continued on in graduate studies, receiving his MA in liberal studies (English and education) from Reed College.

Richard went on to a long professional career of teaching, writing, and editorship, experiences instrumental in the development of this book. He was a teacher of writing and literature, a managing editor of national educational publishing companies, and a speechwriter for Bob Straub, Oregon's former governor.

The foundation of this book and of Richard's interests in writing and literature run parallel to Portland State College's own beginnings. In 1956, he co-founded the *Portland State Review of Student Writing*, the literary magazine now called the *Portland Review*, a quarterly that includes writings from professionals nationwide. Richard's early and ongoing connections with a special group of literary minded professors and friends at Portland State's origin. In researching and writing this work, Richard came to more fully understand the challenges and successes of Stephen Epler, Portland State's founder. Consequently, a devotion by the author to recognize Epler's contributions to the creation and growth of Portland State University underlies this pictorial book. He died February 9th 2009 at the age of 77.