

Richard Etulain (1938 -)



Richard W. Etulain is a Professor Emeritus of History at the University of New Mexico. Etulain was the 38th President of the Western Historical Association in 1998-1999. Etulain was also the President of the Western Literature Association in 1979. He is the former Director of the Center for the American West, now known as the Center for the Southwest. As Director between 1989 and 2001, Etulain encouraged the study of history and culture of the American West by sponsoring seminars and conferences, promoting publication, and inspiring research into new topics on western history. The Center for the Southwest currently has a yearly lecture series named for Etulain that focuses on contributions to the history of the American West.

Etulain was born on August 26, 1938 in Wapato, Washington. He double majored in English and History at Northwest Nazarene College between 1955-1960, where he graduated magna cum laude. He received his Master's in American literature from the University of Oregon in 1962. He also completed his Ph.D. in American history and literature from the University of Oregon in 1966.

Etulain has written or edited over forty books including *Conversations with Wallace Stegner* (1983), *Writing Western History* (editor, 1991), *Re-imagining the Modern American West: A Century of Fiction, History, and Art* (1996), *Researching Western History* (1997, coedited with Gerald D. Nash), *Telling Western Stories: From Buffalo Bill to Larry McMurtry* (1999), *New Mexican Lives: A Biographical History* (editor, 2002), *Beyond the Missouri: The Story of the American West* (2006), *The American West: A Modern History, 1900 to the Present* (with Michael P. Malone, 2d ed., 2007), and *Lincoln Looks West: From the Mississippi to the Pacific* (2010).

Etulain is currently a full time researcher and writer living in Portland, Oregon. In November 2011, he submitted the manuscript of his potential 50th book entitled *Abraham Lincoln and Oregon Country Politics in the Civil War Era*. He is currently working on the biography of Calamity Jane. Etulain's contribution to western history has influenced numerous scholars and continues to provide an interesting lens into history writing.

Sources:

"History of the Center" Center for the Southwest Website, <http://centerforthesouthwest.unm.edu/component/content/article/17-about-the-center-categories/21-history-of-the-center>.

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