

# Panel Discussion

## **“Re-Creating the National Parks: The Hartzog Years”**

**William E. Brown** was a National Park Service historian serving under George Hartzog in the 1960s and 1970s. He served as the historian for the Southwest Region and later for the Alaska Region. Brown’s National Park Service career began in 1957 in Washington, DC where he worked with appointees of Steven Mather and Horace Albright.

The work during this time period created a foundation for many future decisions and improvements. During this period, district park rangers made most of the critical decisions regarding their areas, establishing a personal connection between the National Park Service and the land it manages. This attitude, under the direction of George Hartzog, inspired future expansion ideas such as the Alaska Lands Act of 1980, especially since Hartzog saw Alaska as a major opportunity to add conservation units to National public lands.

William Brown’s Alaska career began in 1975 as a member of the National Park Service task force preparing legislative support data with which the Congress could judge the various park proposals. He served as historian for the task force, responsible for historic resources, studies in all the park proposals, and as a key person for the Yukon-Charley Rivers proposal.

After the establishment of the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Brown served as Chief of Cultural Resources and Regional Historian for the newly designated Alaska Region. He also served as Park Historian at Gates of the Arctic National Park and Denali National Park. Brown then served as Southwest Regional Coordinator for the Columbus Quincentennial, which sought to use the observance as an opportunity to balance interpretive programs with cultural inclusivity and full-bodied history, before retiring in 1991.

Brown has written several books and published research projects that have been recognized nationally including *Islands of Hope, Parks and Recreation in Environmental Crisis* (1972). He resides in Gustavus, Alaska near the entrance to Glacier Bay National Park with his wife Carolyn Elder.

**Gary Everhardt** served as the National Park Service Director from January 13, 1975 to May 27, 1977. He began his career with the National Park Service after working as a student engineer doing survey work while attending and later graduating from North Carolina State University in 1957 with a degree in Civil Engineering. After graduation he continued to do engineering work building campgrounds, installing water systems, laying out roads, and doing general park maintenance and improvements. Due to his hard work and dedication, Gary rose in the ranks and his skills soon distinguished him from his peers. He earned a promotion to Regional Coordinator of Engineering in the Richmond, Virginia office. After four years of service in that capacity, Gary was offered a similar position in Santa Fe, New Mexico as Chief of Regional Maintenance and Engineering. Three years later he was offered a position as Assistant Superintendent at Yellowstone National Park. His compassionate management of staff and diplomatic relations with local and state leaders made him a prime candidate for Superintendent of Grand Teton National Park when the position opened in 1972.

His concerted efforts in the areas of fire management, land use, hunting policy, and cooperation with other federal agencies propelled him into a job in Washington DC. In 1975, Everhardt became director of the National Park Service under the Ford Administration. As director he was instrumental in developing interpretive programs that focused on the history of the American Revolution (in preparation for the bicentennial) and on increasing funding for park development. These improvements required dedicated petitioning of Congress to raise awareness of the value of the National Park Service as well as the importance of interpretation as a part of park services. As part of his tenure as Director, Everhardt made several trips to Alaska working towards the development of national parks. He helped shape what

would become Alaska's national forests and parks during the Carter Administration. He was committed not only to the provision of exceptional service but to preserving the natural beauty of the lands and history behind them.

This commitment to preservation and programming regarding the benefits and historical significance of the park system led Everhardt to return to the field. He was appointed Superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway in 1977. While in this position, he improved the interpretive programming, worked to develop more trails, and improved the visibility of the park system in the eyes of area residents. While this post was slightly different from the classical square national park that has few roads and a central visitor's center, Everhardt saw this unusual configuration as an opportunity to reach more consumers. While Superintendent of the Parkway, Everhardt became involved in several groups such as the National Park Service Employee and Alumni Advisory Group and the Executive Committee of Western Carolina Tomorrow.

Everhardt's 43-year career with the National Park Service came to an official end in May of 2000 when he retired. He continues to serve on numerous committees and still speaks on the importance and historical significance of the National Park Service system. He received the National Level Honorable Cornelius Amory Pugsley Award in 1990. Gary Everhardt resides in Arden, North Carolina with his wife Nancy. They have two children Karen and Phillip.

**Robert Stanton** was unanimously confirmed as the 15th Director of the National Park Service, US Department of Interior, in 1997 and served until the end of the Clinton Administration in 2001. He was the first director to undergo confirmation hearings before the US Senate, and the first African American to serve in this position since the origin of the National Park Service in 1916.

As director, he helped increase the National Park Service budget by 28% and inaugurated major park preservation and visitor service programs including

the Natural Resource Challenge, Public Land Corps, Diversity Action Plan, and co-sponsorship of the Save America's Treasures program. Several major legislative initiatives were enacted during his service, including the authorization of nine new parks, the National Park Omnibus Improvement Act of 1998, Reauthorization of the Historic Preservation Act, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, and the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

He began his career at Grand Teton National Park, WY as a seasonal Park Ranger during the summers of 1962 and 1963. He worked for two years as Director of Public Relations and Alumni Affairs at Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Texas. In 1966 he served in the Washington, DC headquarters office as a personnel management and public information specialist. He then worked as a management assistant at National Capital Parks-East (1969) and later became superintendent (1970). The next year he was appointed superintendent of Virgin Islands National Park, St. John, US Virgin Islands. In 1974 he became Deputy Regional Director of the Southeast Region in Atlanta, GA. Two years later he returned to Washington, DC headquarters as Assistant Director, Park Operations and in 1978 was appointed Deputy Regional Director of the National Capital Region. In 1987 he served as Associate Director for Operations and then was appointed Regional Director of the National Capital Region (1988-1996).

Mr. Stanton earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Huston-Tillotson College and completed graduate work at Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts. He has been awarded three honorary doctorate degrees: Doctor of Science, Huston-Tillotson College; Doctor of Environmental Stewardship, Unity College, Unity, Maine; and Doctor of Public Policy, Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

He has represented the National Park Service and the US Department of the Interior on the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Board of

Trustees, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts Board of Directors, US Holocaust Memorial Council, the Committee for the Preservation of the White House, and the National Park Foundation. He is active in professional and civic affairs and currently serves on boards of the Student Conservation Association, Inc., the National Audubon Society, Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park, Unity College, Woods Hole Research Center, Environmental Law Institute, Casey Trees Endowment Fund, Eastern National and Guest Services, Inc. He is a Fellow of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, Associate of the Roundtable Associates, Inc., member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Diversity Council, and Chairman of the Trustees of the African American Experience Fund of the National Park Foundation.

**Robert M. Utley** served for 25 years in various capacities with the National Park Service and other federal agencies. Since his retirement from the federal government in 1980, he has devoted himself full time to historical research and writing. His specialty is the history of the American West. Ten of his books have been selections of the History Book Club, eight were selected by the Book of the Month Club.

In 1988 Utley was awarded the Western History Association Prize for distinguished published writings and in 1994 the same organization's Caughey Prize for *The Lance and the Shield* as the best western book of 1993. In 1988, 1989, and 2003, he received the Wrangler Award of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum (for *High Noon in Lincoln*, *Cavalier in Buckskin*, and "Tales of the Texas Rangers" in *American Heritage*). In 1994 he received the Spur Award of the Western Writers of America (for *The Lance and the Shield*) and also the Owen Wister Award for distinguished lifetime achievement. In 1997 the Society for Military History honored him with the Samuel Elliot Morison Prize.

Utley began his career in history at Custer Battlefield National Monument, Montana, and served for six summers during his college years, 1947-52.

From 1954 to 1957 he was a historian with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense, both as an army officer and as a civilian. He then returned to the National Park Service to serve, successively, as Regional Historian of the Southwest Region in Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1957-64; as Chief Historian in Washington, D.C., 1964-72; as Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, 1972-73; and as Assistant Director of the National Park Service for Park Historic Preservation, 1973-76. From 1977 to 1980 he was Deputy Executive Director of the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

One of the founders of the Western History Association, Utley served on its governing council 1962-74 and as its president 1967-68. He was a member of the editorial board of *The American West Magazine* 1964-80. The *Western Historical Quarterly* was launched during his presidency, and he served on its editorial board 1968-73. He was a founder of the Potomac Corral of the Westerners in 1955 and its sheriff in 1973. He was Chairman of the Board of Directors of Eastern National Park and Monument Association 1985-87 and 1989-92. He has appeared frequently on television productions relating to the history of the West.

Born in Arkansas (October 31, 1929) and reared in Indiana, he was educated at Purdue University (B.S. 1951) and Indiana University (M.A. 1952). He holds Honorary Doctor of Letters degrees from Purdue (1974), the University of New Mexico (1976), and Indiana University (1983). He received the Department of the Interior's Distinguished Service Award in 1971.

He served in the U.S. Army 1952-56, attaining the rank of captain.

Utley is married to Melody Webb, also a National Park Service veteran and also a historian.