



# Distinguished Nevadan Nomination Form

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**Deadline: December 31**

**Please send all nominations to:**

**Scott G. Wasserman, Chief Executive Officer of the Board of Regents**  
**2601 Enterprise Road, Reno, NV 89512**  
**e-mail: Scott\_Wasserman@nshe.nevada.edu | Fax: (775) 327-5049**

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1. **Salutation:**  Mr.  Mrs.  Miss  Ms  Dr.

2. **Nominee's Name** *(Please ensure correct spelling.):* STANLEY PAHER

3. **Nominee's Mailing Address and Phone Number** deleted for confidentiality purposes.

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5. **Employment History** *(Attach additional material if necessary.):*

SEE ATTACHED.

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6. Educational Background (Attach additional material if necessary.)

SEE ATTACHED.

7. Reasons for Nomination (Please include outstanding accomplishments, achievements, and contributions to Nevada and its people. Please be specific and provide considerable detail. You may attach additional pages if necessary.):

MR. PAWER IS A NATIVE NEVADAN, AUTHOR OF 30 BOOKS, PUBLISHER OF 124 BOOKS BY 54 OTHER AUTHORS. HIS FIRST BOOK IS STILL THE BEST BOOK ON NEVADA HISTORY. SEE ATTACHED, TOO.

8. Other NSHE Awards (Please list other awards this individual has received.)

MA, UNR 1969

9. Nominated by Regent:

Ronald L. Strecht

(Added 6/05; A. 12/07)

Native Nevadan Stanley Paher (MA, UNR '69) is the author of 19 books on Nevada, Arizona and California, 9 of which have sold more than 30,000 copies. The economic impact of these books has been perhaps six million dollars in current retail value. He has written 7 other books which are not Western Americana, and several dozen magazine articles.

More than an author, Stan Paher has published more than 100 other books of other authors and has substantively edited about 50 of them to make them suitable for publication. He has written about 550 book reviews of other books. Additionally, he has written 6 religious historical books, numerous magazine articles, and letters to the editor. Also scores of general inspirational articles for church bulletins. All of this writing amounts to perhaps more than 2,500,000 words in print. He has also kept handwritten diaries chronicling significant years.

Over the last 40 years he has influenced every conceivable part of the Nevada book universe—as author, publisher, editor, book distributor, marketing consultation, and informal advisor to untold number of people. The influence is both literary and commercial. Recently someone said of me that my epitaph might read, “If you seek Stan’s memorial, look around you.”

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In the late 1970’s Paher’s business was described by one observer: “Loading up his green 15-year old Jeep Wagoneer with a supply of new books, off he goes, following the routes of early animal-driven freighters and stages, through the deserts of the Southwest, visiting general stores and gift shops in small towns. He sees old-timers, swaps stories, sells books and searches for out of print books as well. Some times he might trade books for a rare old volume containing Nevada material. This was one way that he has acquired the largest private collection of Trans-Mississippi West books, including numerous first editions, dating back as far as the John Fremont report to Congress in 1845. Now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Paher in a newer Jeep Rubicon will still carry some books to retail stores en route to a camping and hiking adventure in rural Nevada’s high canyons. He constantly explores back roads and dim trails in order to update his Nevada Atlas, insuring its up to date accuracy.

As author but also as a publisher, collector of rare books and maps and photographs, Stanley Paher has kept alive the history, lore and spirit of Nevada and the Southwest. Through carefully researched text and a multitude of rare photographs, he has documented the many aspects of Nevada life. His purpose is to make history stay alive through text and illustration. Paher loves his work and is steadfastly dedicated. A free spirit, fiercely independent, and a man of simple tastes -- no jewelry, fancy car, furniture or wardrobe--, Paher through his own chosen self-sacrifices has enriched the lives of hundreds of thousands of Nevadans and others who have read and enjoyed his book.

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### **Chronology of Writing -- Stanley Paher**

**1966.** Started research on *Nevada Ghost Towns & Mining Camps* (see below). In the next year I had my first magazine article published in Nevada Magazine. Over the next 25 years I had 6 other articles published in that magazine.

**1968-1970.** About 60 feature articles in the Nevada State Journal (Reno), Sacramento Bee, The “Nevadan” magazine of the Las Vegas Review Journal, the Las Vegas Sun, Mineral County Independent and other magazines. In March 1970 I had the lead article and cover in America West Magazine, Palo Alto, California.

**1969.** Completed Master’s Thesis on “County Seat Controversies of Nevada” University of Nevada, 193 pages. Each chapter of the thesis was published in Nevada newspapers: the Nevada

State Journal (Reno), Mineral County Independent (Hawthorne) Ely Times, Las Vegas Review Journal, Tonopah Times Bonanza.

**1970.** In June, Nevada *Ghost Towns & Mining Camps*, 492 pages, 8-1/2 x 11, 710 illustrations, 115,000 words, was issued by Howell-North, the nation's leading publisher of historical books dealing with mining and railroads in the West. The first edition of 2100 sold out in 5 weeks. Now in 14<sup>th</sup> printing, 67,100 copies sold. Total gross in 2009 dollars would be about \$2.8 million. Winner of Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History, Nashville, Tenn. Reviewed by about 90 newspapers and scholarly historical journals. It has been quoted or cited in scores of other history books during the period 1970-2009. This book has appeared in numerous bibliographies. Now in its 39th year, the book at \$54.95 retail price still sells 500 copies a year. It is by far Nevada's all-time best selling history book.

**1970.** I established Nevada Publications and began to issue books on Nevada, Arizona and California. The first book issued was in September, *Northwestern Arizona Ghost Towns*. First edition of 2200 copies was sold out before end of the year. Now in sixth edition, the book has been expanded and retitled *Western Arizona Ghost Towns*. Special collector's limited edition issued in 1976 when the book briefly took the name *Colorado River Ghost Towns*. A companion volume, *Chloride Mines and Murals* was printed shortly thereafter in an edition of 10,000 copies. Later in the decade I was co-author of *Central Arizona Ghost Towns* and I also edited *Tombstone, Arizona Silver Camp*.

**1971.** I wrote *Ponderosa Country*, a guide to Reno and vicinity with a short history of Reno included. Like other guidebooks, it lived a short life, but sold 9,500 copies both in paperback and hardback, within 30 months.

**1971.** I wrote *Las Vegas, As it Began, As it Grew*, large 9 x 12 format, 210 early illustrations of Las Vegas. First edition of 5000 sold out in less than 5 weeks. Reviewed by historical journals and newspapers and cited and quoted in many other Las Vegas books. It is my second most significant book. Total sales of the 7 printings is just over 34,000 copies. This book was the most popular early history book on Las Vegas until the centennial year of Las Vegas (2005) when other history books on Las Vegas were issued.

**1972.** I wrote *Death Valley Ghost Towns*, large format, 48 pages, illustrated. This book became Volume One when a second companion Volume was issued in 1981. Together the two books have sold about 95,000 copies. These are still the standard works on Death Valley mining camps and ghost towns.

**1974.** I issued *A Preliminary Nevada Bibliography* in a small edition of 250 copies as a preliminary work before the permanent book was issued in 1980 (see below).

**1975-1976.** I was statewide editor of the *Nevada Official Bicentennial Book* 528 pages, large format paperback, heavily illustrated. I worked with about 250 amateur and experienced writers to compile this volume, editing all stories. During these years I taught Univ. of California—Santa Barbara extension courses in creative writing and some of the stories written by the students were selected for this volume. First edition print run was 30,000 copies and 28,500 were sold in the twelve months from June 1976 to May 1977. Most of the rest of the unsold books were converted to hard cover with a special 24-page section, a biography of Sam Boyd, Las Vegas hotel developer. After all books had been sold, I reissued almost all of the stories in the Bicentennial Book under a new title, *Nevada Towns & Tales* in two volumes. This new format saw four additional reprints, making a total of 46,000 copies sold.

**1977-78.** I wrote two small volumes on Tonopah and Goldfield, each of which is still in print. Also in 1978 I wrote a verse by verse commentary on the future “end times” chapter of the New Testament, Matthew 24. It was enlarged and reissued in 1996 (see below).

**1980.** I wrote *Nevada An Annotated Bibliography*, which is a compilation of 2,544 Nevada books issued up to that time. It is a 558 page book with exhaustive 3,500 subject index and illustrations of covers and title pages. It is still the standard work on Nevada bibliography and is frequently cited by Western Americana book dealers’ catalogs. Even in the year 2009 it is cited at least once a month by dealers in this era of fewer paper catalogs. More than a few times a book dealer will advertise his book and delight in saying “not in Paher” which might enhance its rarity. It won recognition from the American Association of State and Local History, the Nevada Historical Society, and other places.

**1980.** My firm, Nevada Publications, began reprinting various Nevada books on history, geology and travel, a total of 28 volumes in all. Also I began as publisher to issue about 40 books by other authors through the year 2003. I was heavily investing in books, made possible by the royalties I received from *Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps* and profits made from the several self-published books of the 1970’s. Profits of the early 1970s were invested in Las Vegas and rural Nevada real estate and I bought and sold parcels which allowed my firm Nevada Publications to issue books of marginal profit potential. (I possessed a California real estate salesman’s license in the early 1960s and learned the ropes of judicious buying and selling at that time.)

In 1981-1983 I reissued the 1340-page *History of Nevada* by Sam Davis, replacing a 7-page index with an 88 page comprehensive one. Also the *History of Nevada* by H. H. Bancroft, also with an extensive new index. I also republished Bancroft’s monumental *History of Utah*. Other books were *My Adventures With Your Money* by George Graham Rice, *Gold in Them Hills* by Carl Glasscock, the Nevada portion of Mark Twain’s *Roughing It* (with new title *Mark Twain in Virginia City, Nevada*) and reprints of government publications (see below). I wrote for the Callville Bay Marina at Lake Mead a history of the river port and outpost which now lies under Lake Mead at Callville Bay, with 11,500 copies sold.

In 1985 I assembled and edited articles from Compressed Air magazine of Ingersoll-Rand to publish *The Story of the Hoover Dam* as a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary book for the Chamber of Commerce of Boulder City. This book proved to be so successful that it was reprinted 13 times through 2008, with almost 66,000 books sold, both in hard cover and soft cover.

Beginning in 1980 I wrote for 10 years a book review column for the Las Vegas Review Journal entitled “Southwestern Bookshelf.” In it I reviewed about 680 Nevada and California books. Also I have written reviews for the Overland Journal, Folio, and local historical society newsletters and magazines.

Also after 1980 I published books for other authors. In 1983 I edited *The Slot Machine, An Illustrated History* by Marshall Fey. This book, now in 6<sup>th</sup> printing, is the standard work on the history of coin operated gambling devices. For Douglas McDonald I edited and published *Nevada Lost Mines & Buried Treasures, Julia Bulette and the Red Light Ladies of Nevada, Camels in Nevada, Bodie Boom Town Gold Town, and Virginia City Silver Region*. I edited *Fort Churchill: Nevada’s Military Outpost* for the Nevada Division of Parks. I published and edited for Marta Becket her book entitled *Death Valley Junction*. I published Bob Stewart’s *Aurora, Nevada’s Ghost City of the Dawn*. In 1982 I co-authored with Jim Gamett *Nevada Post Office: an Illustrated History*. It is still and perhaps forever will be the accepted work on the subject.

**1982** I wrote *Scotty's Castle*, a full-color guide to that Death Valley attraction. It has sold almost 76,000 copies in 5 printings. Also soon came *Destination Lake Tahoe*, reprinted many times with more than 94,000 copies sold. Another book with 29,000 sold is, *California Gold Country*, which completes this trilogy. All of these are large format books with about 75 color illustrations in each. These were published by KC Publications. In 1986 I wrote a biography of Horace Albright for KC Publications and it appeared as the lead chapter in that firm's history book, *The National Park Service*, inasmuch as Albright was co-founder of the National Park Service early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Also in the 1980's my publishing company grew. *On the Hoof In Nevada* was reissued with NP imprint. I reissued Robert Harris' *Nevada Post Offices*. I took over the Harlan-Young Press line of treasure and history books. I reissued Dan De Quille's *The Big Bonanza* and Eliot Lord's *Comstock Mining and Miners*, each classic books on Virginia City's Comstock Lode. Also *Elegance on C Street* by Richard Datin and *A Peep At Washoe* by J. Ross Browne. From 1982-1988 I reissued eleven books in Nevada geology. These are reprints of US Geological Survey bulletins and Information Circulars which had county by county summaries of mining. Then in 1988 came *Lake Tahoe the Lake of the Sky* by George Wharton James. Also *Fearful Crossing* by Harold Curran and *Ghost Trails to California* by Thomas Hunt. Other published books are *Mining Camp Days* by Emil Billeb (5 printings), *Ghosts of the Glory Trail* by Nell Murbarger (7 printings), *The 49ers* by Archer Hulbert and *Index to Thompson and West History of Nevada 1881*.

**1992.** I wrote *Nevada Ghost Town and Mining Camps Atlas* as a companion to the ghost town book issued in 1970, and the 2009 edition is the 7<sup>th</sup> printing with altered title: *Nevada Ghost Town and Desert Atlas*. There are 71 maps in full color showing about 2,200 destination points in rural Nevada: ghost towns, pioneer cemeteries, gem sites, gold sites, caves, hot springs, campgrounds, together with the trails of old: the California Trail, the Pony Express and the Old Spanish Trail. Total sales through 2008 have been about 32,000 copies. The new 2009 printing was 7,400 copies.

**1996.** I began religious book writing and publishing in earnest. An extensive revision of the Matthew 24 book from 1978 (see above) and another book in the subject of covenants were alternate monthly selections in October 1996 with Great Christian Books, a religious history book of the month club based in Maryland. By 2000 I had written six books on the subject of religious history, including one on the development of the New Testament canon [collection], and another on religious psychology. I took over a line of 15 Bible commentaries by Homer Hailey, nationally known author and lecturer. I also have written two dozen tracts on selected subjects and at least 300 short inspirational articles averaging 150 words for church bulletins. Also I have written several tracts (bound essays) on general subjects and about 80 articles for religious magazines, including Vanguard and Guardian of Truth. One significant series was nine critical articles on the nature of God, as defined in Mormon literature.

**1996.** Nevada Publications expanded distributorship representation of other publisher's books. Together with the books I wrote or published myself, these other books from 17 other publishers means that I have an inventory of about 160 different Nevada titles, plus about 26 religious titles. In particular, I have represented the University of Nevada Press since about 1970.

**2001.** In this year the Western Trails Research Association was founded, and I am an officer in it. Over the following six years it issued six books, two of which are by Marshall Fey: *Emigrant Shadows* in 2001 and in 2008 *The Emigrant Trail, the Long Road to California*. I substantively edited for the Association all six of the books.

**2003.** In this year I issued my last new published book, working from start to finish with the Nevada Publications logo, Bodie's *Boss Lawman, a Western Odyssey* by Bill Merrill. I wrote the first 32 pages as an extensive introduction to the book and edited the rest. I republished for Sally Zanjani her popular books *Jack Longstreet: The Last of the Desert Frontiersman* and also *Goldfield The Last Gold Rush*. I am regarded as the distributor of Zanjani's books.

**2004.** I was elected to the Board of Directors of Tonopah Historic Mining Park, managing the bookshop. Also from 1974-1978 and 2007-2009 I was chairman of the Publications Committee of the Death Valley 49ers, which has issued several dozen books. I am currently in charge of revisions of these, when necessary, and editing new books which are done at the rate of 2 per year. Also I am an active member of the Nevada State Judicial Historical Society and the Washoe County Courthouse Commission.

**2010-2011.** I issued the book, *Natural Law, Universal in Scope, Moral in Design*, a political-religious doctrine founded on the creative order of God and the moral nature of man. I finished another book, *The Inspiration of the Bible and the Formation of the New Testament Canon*, a defense of the Bible but not from the standpoint of fundamentalism.

Other writing hobbies have been keeping diaries at certain times in my life and also writing letters to the editor. I have had at least 90 of them published in about 12 newspapers on a multitude of subjects ranging from politics and economics to historic preservation.

Also since the 1960s I have assembled a Nevada historical archive that includes the following: 80 Nevada territorial stock certificates, hundreds of other certificates issued post-1864, other ephemera, 1400 Nevada maps including several dozen from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, 13,500 Nevada photographs, 3,500 Nevada books (including scores for first editions), about 800 other books on Western emigration and California's Mother Lode, and a large postal collection of postal covers and cancellations. These materials are all stored in a custom made, inlaid redwood fireproof walk-in vault at my home here in Reno. It is the largest private collection of Nevada historical material in existence.

I have helped popularize Nevada history through giving lectures on Nevada on various topics ranging from Lake Tahoe industries to mining camps to the history of the Lincoln Highway. In 1970 alone I gave 48 speeches in 31 Nevada communities. Over the years I have given at least 600 historical slide shows, not only in Nevada but also in California and Arizona. I have published 124 books for 55 different authors, the vast majority of which are on Nevada topics.

I have set up two scholarships at the University of Nevada, one in the History Department and another for creative writing in the English Department. These will endure long after my death because I have in 2008 set up the Stan's Foundation which will continue to publish and distribute my best books and also insure continuance of the scholarships and other gifts well after my death.

Also I have informally helped others published their books over the years. I can't even begin to count the number of people influenced by my editing and publishing advice. The number exceeds fifty authors. Three of these are current or former faculty members of the University of Nevada. Many times I have been asked by several of the past Directors of University of Nevada Press as to whether or not to proceed with certain titles and manuscripts and informal advice about marketing, size of book, and so forth. I assisted Stephens Press of Las Vegas in their formative years, and they are now Nevada's largest book publisher. Almost all of this advice was without

compensation, but for Compass Books I was an expert paid reader for their Nevada guidebook, and for Benchmark Road and Recreation Atlases I have assisted in the same way.

I have received some recognition over the years. Perhaps as many as 75 articles have been written about me in various newspapers or significant mention in magazines. The former manager of the gift shop of the Nevada State Museum in Carson said of me: "Stan, you have brought Nevada history writing and research to a new and higher level." John Reps' monumental 830 page work entitled *Cities of the American West* said of my 1970 Nevada ghost town book: "Paher's massive compilation of pictorial material on Nevada mining towns, accompanied by an informative text, is a valuable source of information and ranks as one of the best of the scores of works published in Western mining communities."

In 1998 I received from the Mining History Association the Rodman Paul award for outstanding contributions to mining history.

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