

Written in 1951 by someone in the Reno Stamp Club.



The Reno Stamp Club, sponsoring organization of the Nevada Settlement Centennial Stamp, was organized November 2, 1949, by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Greco. Mr. Ed Walker made reservations at the Reno Chamber of Commerce Rooms but on the night of November 9, a convention had been scheduled for the same evening. Some

things happen for the best. The arrival of the ardent collector and Reno justice of the peace, Laurence Layman, was most fortunate for all of us. Mr. Layman invited the 45 people who had gathered in the lobby of his chambers and the meeting was held as scheduled, on that cold icy night.

The election of officers was held with Joe Greco named president; Ed Walker, vice-president; Mrs. Lillian Rogers and Solo Goldsmith, board of governors; Mr. Ed Walker, Mr. Laurence Layman and Charles I. Crosby, by-laws standing committee.

An invitation from Mr. Hank Swan, supervisor of Recreation, offered the newly organized Reno Stamp Club, a permanent meeting place at the Reno Recreation Center, which was greatly appreciated and accepted.

Twenty-two of the collectors who attended the first meeting are still active although in 1951 there are now 61 Seniors, an organized group of 25 Juniors and 19 shut-ins belonging to Boy Scout Troop No. 110. (The latter a project of the Reno Stamp Club which furnishes them with stamps and other necessary accessories.) The same officers were re-elected in 1951 with the exception of the club historian. Mrs. C. D. Lambird was elected to serve during 1951-52.

It was not long after the holidays that Mr. Maurice Lewis, representing the Reno postmaster, met with the Reno Stamp Club group. He suggested how nice it would be to have a First Post Office Stamp for Nevada. Like all novices, this sounded very good so the club decided steps would immediately be taken to obtain this first post office stamp, but the request was rejected by the Postmaster General, Washington, D.C. Not being a club to say DIE, a new venture was started at Mrs. Greco's suggestion, who had read an article in a philatelic magazine that stated settlement centennials were still among subjects to be given consideration provided state festivities were held in connection with such events.

On February 13, 1950, the club made a motion to apply for a Nevada Settlement Centennial Commemorative Stamp, honoring our first permanent settlement in Carson Valley, now Genoa, Nevada. Reply on this application was slow. On March 24, a special meeting was called by president Joe Greco, requesting all Members to meet with Hon. Walter S. Baring, Congressman from Nevada. Substantial information to plead out our cause was given Mr. Baring to present the Postmaster General on his return to Washington, D.C. Within two weeks after this special

meeting recognition and consideration for the first time was given to this group for a Nevada Stamp.

Known to us, others had tried for a Nevada stamp, but were rejected. In 1939, the Silver State Club, s short-lived group, applied for a 75th Anniversary Stamp requesting it be issued on October 31. This was rejected by the Postmaster General, stating it was not in order and only 100th Anniversary commemoratives were considered. Dr. Effie M. Mack and Senator Pat McCarran applied for a "Snow Shoe Thompson" stamp between 1945-1949, but this was also rejected on the grounds that stamps were issued to commemorate heroes. Thompson, a Norwegian, plodded through snow clad mountains on homemade skis to carry mail and other items between Placerville and Genoa.

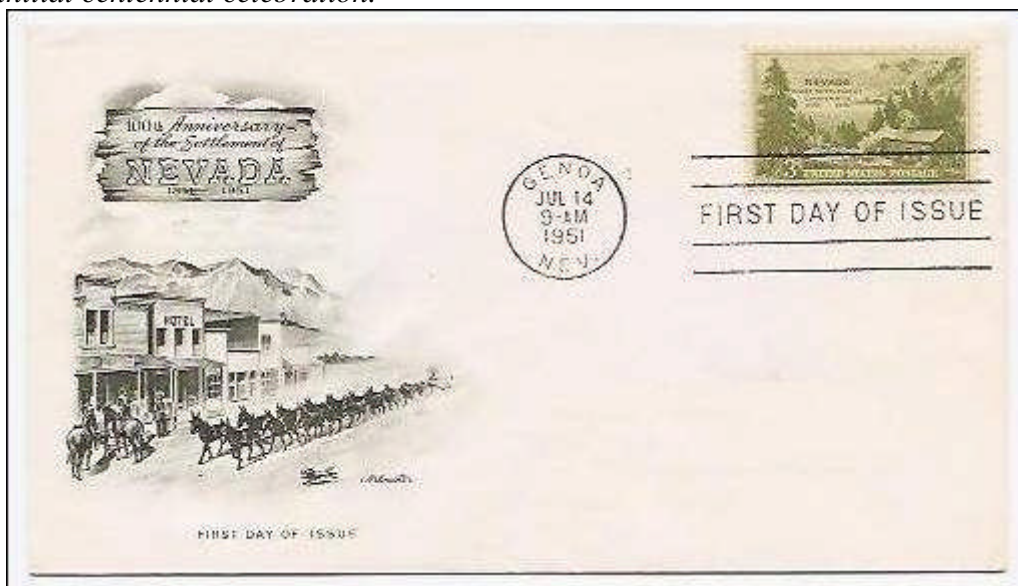
After waiting one year and six days, final approval was given on the "Nevada Settlement Centennial" by the Postmaster General, stating that Nevada would be one of the four commemorative stamps issued in 1951. Besides creating interest throughout Nevada's 17 counties and other philatelic clubs throughout the country by circulating petitions and form letters, other activities were in progress. The Reno Stamp Club sponsored "The Final Run of the V. & T. Cachet," Harry Weiss show, and held their first stamp exhibit.

It was the untiring efforts put forth by the Reno Stamp Club, Hon. Walter S. Baring and Senator Pat McCarran that this final goal was achieved. Nevada has finally obtained both national and international recognition of its first historical event.

The Reno Stamp Club meets regularly on the second and fourth Mondays of each month except July and August. Juniors meet at 7:30 p.m., Seniors at 8 p.m. at the Reno Recreation Center, Ryland at S. Center. A cordial invitation is extended to visitors at all times.

In Memoriam:

Dr. Jeanne Elizabeth Weir, secretary of the Nevada State Historical Society, who cooperated with the Reno Stamp Club in supplying data which was used to good advantage. We, members of the Reno Stamp Club, only wish she could have been with us today, July 14, 1951, our initial centennial celebration.



Nevada Centennial Issue

The Post Office Department issued this 3 cent stamp through the Genoa, NV., post office on July 14, 1951, to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the first settlement of Nevada. The central design of the stamp depicts a log cabin, with a mountain range in the background, and a pioneer scene typical of the period of the first permanent white settlement in Nevada. In the upper left portion of the stamp arranged in four lines of dark Gothic, appears the wording "Nevada First Settlement Centennial 1851-1951." Across the bottom of the stamp is the inscription "3¢ United States Postage" in whiteface Roman.

The stamp was printed by the rotary process, electric-eye perforated, and issued in panes of fifty stamps each. The printing of 110 million copies of this stamp was authorized.

Reference: *Postal Bulletin* (June 12, 1951)