

New Museum Opening

At our Feb. 26 meeting, **Eric Moody** had to leave early for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for a new local museum. **Harvey Edwards** developed the cover below to honor and commemorate the occasion. The official museum opening will be in April 23, but the ribbon cutting was pushed up into February for Black History and Heritage month. The Reno post office was gracious enough to apply the hand-cancel postmark. Harvey had 10 covers prepared with several going to the museum.



The inscription on the back of the cover reads:

Northern Nevada African American Firefighter Museum

Established in 1956, the Black Springs Volunteer Fire Department lacked equipment and a local fire station. A local Black Springs fire station, now home of the new Northern Nevada African American Firefighter Museum, was constructed in 1970 and operated until the mid-1980's. At the time, the Black Springs Fire Department had six volunteer firefighters, led by Chief William Lobster, the first African American Fire Chief in Nevada.

"Black Spring" began appearing on railroad maps in the 1800s and as "Black Springs" by the 1880s. The area had been primarily white into the 1950s with restrictive racial covenants that prohibited selling or even renting property to anyone who was not white. By the mid- 1950s, a number of Black families were able to purchase lots from J.E. Sweatt, who had purchased land expressly to sell to Black people.

Learn more about the history of Black Springs and its volunteer firefighters at the Northern Nevada African American Firefighter Museum on Kennedy Drive in the Grandview Terrace area North of Reno.

Harvey Edwards is a member whose current collecting interests include submarines and Nevada history which varies based on the exhibit he is working on. He also collected St Pierre et Miquelon and pictorial cancellations. He is a NSSS Director and an award-winning exhibitor and winner of the Chaloner Award in 2015.

