

# New Mexico



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# *New Mexico Purchase and Expeditions*

## **Louisiana Purchase Exposition: Map of Louisiana Purchase**

**10¢ • Scott 327 • 1904**

### **Louisiana Purchase**

**37¢ • Scott 3782 • 2003**

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson realized the economic importance of New Orleans and the land west of the Mississippi for a young, developing United States. France had just lost their colony of Saint Domingue (now Haiti) which prompted them to abandon their plans for an empire in the Americas. When envoys were sent to France to negotiate the purchase of New Orleans, France offered their entire holdings in North America to the United States. The final cost of what is now known as the Louisiana Purchase was \$15 million, or about five cents per acre. A portion of New Mexico was included in the Louisiana Purchase.

## **Coronado Expedition**

**3¢ • Scott 898 • 1940**

Francisco Vasquez de Coronado (1510–1554) was the first European to explore Southwest United States. As a governor of one of Mexico's western provinces, he searched in vain for the treasure rumored to be located in the fabled seven Golden Cities of Cibola. Thinking the treasure may be further north, and wanting to convert the native Americans to Christianity, Coronado organized a troop of Spaniards and Mexican slaves and moved north into the United States, including parts of New Mexico. His search for gold, silver, and other treasures was a failure.

Although Coronado's expedition is generally considered a failure, his travels opened the American Southwest to further exploration.

## **Spanish Settlement of the Southwest**

**32¢ • Scott 3220 • 1998**

In 1598 an expedition of approximately 400 soldiers and settlers led by Don Juan de Onate headed north from Mexico to explore what is now the Southwestern United States. On the upper Rio Grande River, near the present town of Espanola, New Mexico, Onate founded the colony of San Gabriel de Yunque. It was the first permanent European colony in New Mexico.

This stamp marks the "cuarto centennial" of this colony and of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (the Royal Road to the Interior Land), which the explorers followed to reach their destination.

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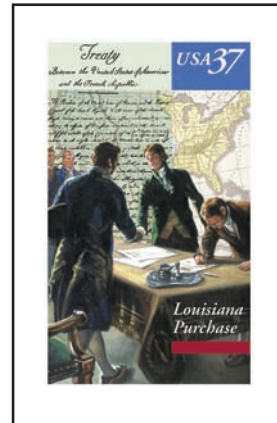
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# *New Mexico Purchase and Expeditions*



Louisiana Purchase  
Exposition: Map of  
Louisiana Purchase  
10¢ • Scott 327 • 1904



Louisiana Purchase  
37¢ • Scott 3782 • 2003



Coronado Expedition  
3¢ • Scott 898 • 1940



Spanish Settlement of the Southwest  
32¢ • Scott 3220 • 1998



# *New Mexico Purchase and Expeditions*

## **Kearny Expedition**

**3 ¢ Scott • 944 • 1946**

General Stephen Watts Kearny (1794–1848) first saw action in the War of 1812. Because of his many postings throughout the west, when the Mexican-American War broke out, Kearny was chosen to become commander of the Army of the West, leading the forces in New Mexico and California. In 1846 General Kearny and his troops took possession of Santa Fe from Mexican rule, assuring the public that their right to worship would not be hindered and they would be protected against their enemies. The laws set forth by Kearny became known as the “Kearny Code”, and became the basis for law in New Mexico through the mid-1880s.

## **New Mexico Statehood**

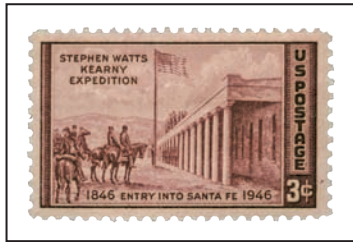
**4¢ • Scott 1191 • 1962**

Native Americans may have moved into the area now known as New Mexico as early as the 1200s. Spanish settlers moved into the San Juan Pueblo region in 1598, and on into Santa Fe in the early 1600s claiming the territory for Spain. In 1821 Mexico declared independence from Spain, taking the area from California to mid-Arizona, and from southern Oregon/Idaho into present-day Mexico. When Stephen Watts Kearny had New Mexico annexed to the United States, the state was much larger than it is today. It included southern Colorado, southern Utah, southeast Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico. In 1861 the northeastern portion of the territory became part of Colorado, and in 1863 the Territory was split and nearly half of the western area became Arizona.

New Mexico’s first attempt at a constitution and statehood was made in 1850. Following two more attempts, in 1910 the Enabling Act authorized the territory to call a constitutional convention to prepare for statehood. After more than 50 years in the process of trying to become a state, on January 6, 1912, President William Howard Taft signed the proclamation admitting New Mexico as the 47th state in the United States.



# *New Mexico Purchase and Expeditions*



**Kearny Expedition**  
3¢ • Scott 944 • 1946



**New Mexico Statehood**  
4¢ • Scott 1191 • 1962



# History

## Palace of the Governors

1¼¢ • Scott 1031A and 1054A • 1960

The Palace of the Governors, located in Santa Fe, New Mexico, is the oldest public building in the United States. Built in 1610, the Palace originally served as the seat of Spanish government for what is now America's southwest. When the United States took possession of New Mexico, the Palace became New Mexico's first territorial capitol. In 1909 the building was converted into the Palace of Governors History Museum, and in 1960 it was designated a National Historic Landmark.

## Gadsden Purchase

3¢ • Scott 1028 • 1953

In 1853, as the railroad age progressed, businessmen from the Southern United States felt that a railroad linking them to the Pacific Coast would expand trade opportunities. However, a direct route across the south meant going across the Rocky Mountains or into the flatter Mexican territory. In a treaty signed by James Gadsden, a U.S. ambassador to Mexico, the U.S. purchased a 29,670 square-mile region that is now southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. Following the completion of the \$10 million purchase, the southern railroad was completed connecting the lands from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.

## Overland Mail

4¢ • Scott 1120 • 1958

As the California's population grew, mail was delivered to the west coast by ship across the Gulf of Mexico to Panama, carried across land, and put back on a ship which then carried it to ports along Pacific Ocean. As the population grew, especially following the gold rush which began in 1848, there was a realized need for better communication between the east and west coasts of the United States. A stagecoach route was built from two eastern cities, Memphis, Tennessee and St. Louis, Missouri to Fort Smith, Arkansas. From there a single route traversed through the Indian Territory, New Mexico, and Arizona, ending in San Francisco, California. Known as the Butterfield Overland Mail Trail, the stagecoach mail operated from 1857 to 1861.

## Rough Riders

3¢ • Scott 973 • 1948

The "Rough Riders" was a name bestowed upon the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry, a regiment raised in 1898 for the Spanish-American War. Knowing that the unit was going to see action in Cuba, volunteers were gathered from the southwest where the hot climate was similar to that of Cuba. The unit was comprised of American Indians, college athletes, cowboys, and ranchers, with nearly one-half of the men coming from the ranches, farms, towns, and cities in New Mexico.

## Buffalo Soldiers

29¢ • Scott 2818 • 1994

After the Civil War, the U.S. government sent infantry and mounted troops into the western territories, including New Mexico, to preserve the peace between Indians and settlers, and among the settlers themselves. The troops included six black regiments whose organization had been authorized by Congress. Soon their Indian adversaries began calling them "Buffalo Soldiers," perhaps because of their short, curly hair or maybe because they were as tough as buffalo. The name caught on, and within a short time the bison, or American buffalo, was a part of the military crest of their Cavalry.



# History



Palace of the Governors  
1 1/4¢ • Scott 1031A and 1054A • 1960



Gadsden Purchase  
3¢ • Scott 1028 • 1953



Overland Mail  
4¢ • Scott 1120 • 1958



Rough Riders  
3¢ • Scott 973 • 1948



Buffalo Soldiers  
29¢ • Scott 2818 • 1994



# Symbols

## **Whooping Cranes** 3¢ • Scott 1098 • 1957

The whooping crane is the tallest bird found in North America. Named for its whooping sound, this bird is on the list of endangered species. In 1975, efforts to establish a western migratory wild flock of whooping cranes used the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge located in New Mexico as a wintering grounds for the birds. Although the effort to have the whooping crane winter in this wildlife refuge failed, tens of thousands of other birds, including sandhill cranes, Arctic geese, ducks, and others, winter at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

## **American Bicentennial: State Flags — New Mexico**

13¢ • Scott 1679 • 1976

## **Flags of our Nation, New Mexico Flag** 44¢ • Scott 4309 • 2010

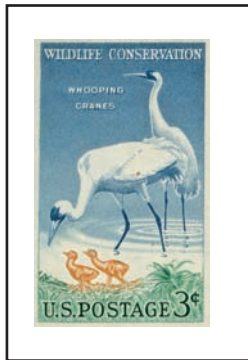
The colors on New Mexico's state flag are the red and yellow of old Spain, brought to New Mexico by Spanish explorers in 1540. The simple, elegant center design of a sun with four groups of four rays is the ancient Zia sun symbol, which represents the unique character of New Mexico. The Zia believe that the giver of all good gave them gifts in groups of four: the four directions – north, east, south, and west; the four seasons — spring, summer, fall, and winter; the four parts of a day – sunrise, noon, evening, and night; and life itself – childhood, youth, middle age, and old age.

## **State Birds and Flowers: Roadrunner and Yucca, New Mexico State Bird and Flower** 20¢ • Scott 1983 • 1982

Although a roadrunner is capable of flying, it spends most of the time on the ground. It can run up to speeds of 15 miles per hour to catch food for its diet which includes insects, small reptiles, mice, snakes, and more. The Hopi and Pueblo Indian tribes believed the roadrunner, which was adopted as the state's bird in 1949, provided protection against evil. In 1927 New Mexico's legislature approved of the school children's choice, and designated the yucca blossom as the state's official flower. A symbol of sturdiness as well as beauty, the yucca has been an important resource as its roots provide a resource for soap and its leaves are used for basket-making. Yucca is also used in the production of alcoholic drinks (tequila, pulque, and mescal.)



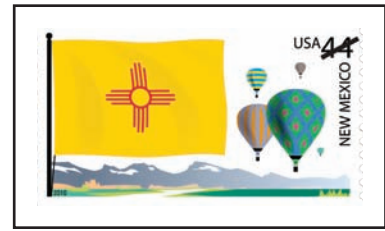
# Symbols



Whooping Cranes  
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American Bicentennial:  
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Flags of our Nation, New Mexico Flag  
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State Birds and Flowers:  
Roadrunner and Yucca, New  
Mexico State Bird and Flower  
20¢ • Scott 1983 • 1982



# *Symbols*

## **Hot Air Balloons**

**20¢ • Scott 2032–2035 • 1983**

## **Ballooning: Overhead View of Balloon**

**19¢ • Scott 2530 • 1991**

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is the largest balloon event in the world. Held annually, the event runs for nine days during the first week (plus the weekends before and after) in October. The number of balloons reached an all-time high in 2000 with 1,019 balloons. In 2001 the Balloon Fiesta Board set a limit of 750 balloons, citing a desire for “quality over quantity.” The limit was further reduced to 600 in 2009 due to growth within the city which caused a loss of landing zones. Up to 100,000 spectators enjoy the beauty of the balloons being inflated and floating into space on any one day of the festival.

In 2005 New Mexico designated the hot air balloon as the official state aircraft.



# Symbols



**Hot Air Balloons**  
20¢ • Scott 2032–2035 • 1983



Scott 2032



Scott 2033



Scott 2034



Scott 2035



**Ballooning: Overhead  
View of Balloon**  
19¢ • Scott 2530 • 1991



# *New Mexico Symbols*

## **Smokey Bear**

**20¢ • Scott 2096 • 1984**

Smokey Bear exists as a real animal and as a fictional character.

The real Smokey Bear came into reality in 1950 when a badly singed, three-month old bear cub was found clinging to a burned tree in the Lincoln National Forest near Alamogordo, New Mexico. The cub, pleasingly called "Hotfoot Teddy", was rescued by the forest rangers and nursed back to health. Eventually Smokey Bear was sent to live at the National Zoological Park in Washington D.C.

The fictional Smokey appeared first as poster art in 1944, when the program director for a national forest fire campaign signed a memo creating Smokey. When the first Smokey Bear was seen in ads and on billboards, he was small, cute, had natural bear paws, wore baggy dungarees, and was most often seen dousing a campfire with a bucket of water. Within two years, he was redesigned to have a rounder, more cuddly appearance, huge eyes, and ever-changing wardrobe, and a shovel instead of a bucket.

## **Endangered Species — Gila Trout**

**32¢ • Scott 3105j • 1996**

The Gila trout, with its yellow head, iridescent sides and gill covers, and black spots, was once considered endangered with the possibility of extinction. This trout settles in deep pools of clear water and mountain streams, feeding on insects and other invertebrates.

At one time, the Gila trout was common throughout the Gila and San Francisco rivers in New Mexico, and in Arizona's Agua Fria and Verde waterways, but its numbers and range have decreased substantially. It is now specific to the Gila River in New Mexico.

## **North American Wildlife: Black bear**

**22¢ • Scott 2299 • 1987**

The black bear is an omnivorous animal, typically eating nuts, berries, roots, insects, and small mammals. They hibernate throughout the winter, during which time the cubs are born. The cubs will stay with the mother until their second summer when the mother will teach them where to find food. Adult bears will grow to be from 130 to 500 or more pounds.

In 1963 this intelligent, shy, and secretive animal was designated as the state animal of New Mexico.

## **Nature of America: Pacific Coast Rain**

**Forest — Cutthroat Trout**

**33¢ • Scott 3378d • 2000**

The New Mexico Cutthroat trout, also called Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, is native to the cold mountain streams of northern New Mexico. This freshwater fish is popular among anglers, especially fly fisherman, as it commonly reaches a weight of up to two pounds. In 1955 the New Mexico Cutthroat trout was officially designated as the state fish.



# New Mexico Symbols



Smokey Bear  
20¢ • Scott 2096 • 1984



North American Wildlife: Black bear  
22¢ • Scott 2299 • 1987



Endangered Species — Gila Trout  
32¢ • Scott 3105j • 1996



Nature of America: Pacific Coast  
Rain Forest — Cutthroat Trout  
33¢ • Scott 3378d • 2000



# *New Mexico Symbols*

**Space, Probing the Vastness of Space —  
New Mexico Radio Interferometer Very  
Large Array  
60¢ • Scott 3409b • 2000**

The Radio Interferometer Very Large Array (VLA) is located approximately fifty miles west of Socorro, New Mexico. The observatory consists of 27 independent antennas aligned in a Y-shape with each leg stretching 13 miles long. Each antenna has a dish measuring 82 feet in diameter and weighing 460,000 pounds.

The VLA is an instrument designed to allow investigation into astronomical objects including the sun, stars, planets, black holes, quasars, pulsars, and the hydrogen gas that constitutes a large portion of the Milky Way galaxy.

**Rio Grande  
40¢ • Scott C134 • 1999**

The mighty Rio Grande flows out of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. It flows south into New Mexico where it passes through the wild, remote area of the Rio Grande Gorge and further divides the state passing through Espanola, Albuquerque, and Las Cruces. The river provides a variety of recreational activities including boating, fishing, wildlife viewing, and whitewater boating.

**Greetings from America  
34¢ • Scott 3591 • 2002  
37¢ • Scott 3726 • 2002**

The Greetings from America stamp series features retro designs that mimic the popular tourist postcards of the 1930s and '40s. The New Mexico stamp design depicts a church in Santa Fe and the Taos Pueblo north of the city of Taos.

**Crops of the Americas:  
Chili Peppers**

**39¢ • Scott 4003 • 2006**

**Beans**

**39¢ • Scott 4004 • 2003**

Chili peppers are used fresh, dried, or pickled. Dried chilies may be reconstituted then ground into a paste. The chili pepper, one of the first cultivated crops in southwestern United States, adds a spicy element to Mexican-American meals.

The pinto bean is also used in many southwestern United States meals, often being steamed, fried, or made into soups.

In 1965 the New Mexico legislature debated over adopting a state vegetable. Following a discussion that the chile and frijole (pinto bean) were inseparable, both were designated as the state vegetable.



# *New Mexico Symbols*



Space, Probing the Vastness of Space  
60¢ • Scott 3409b • 2000



Greetings from America  
34¢ • Scott 3591 • 2002



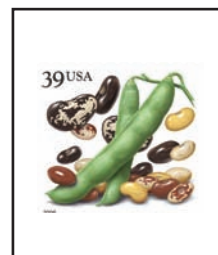
Greetings from America  
37¢ • Scott 3726 • 2002



Rio Grande  
40¢ • Scott C134 • 1999



Chili Peppers  
39¢ • Scott 4003 • 2006



Beans  
39¢ • Scott 4004 • 2003



# New Mexican Famous People

## Prominent American series: Ernie Pyle 16¢ • Scott 1398 • 1971

Ernest Taylor Pyle (1900–1945) was born near Dana, Indiana. He became one of the first reporters for *The Washington Daily News*. He became known for his feature columns written primarily for Scripps-Howard newspapers. In 1944 Ernest Pyle won a Pulitzer Prize for his stories about ordinary soldiers fighting in World War II. Pyle's last home was located in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## Georgia O'Keeffe 32¢ • Scott 3069 • 1996

Georgia O'Keeffe (1887–1986) was born near Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. She became an accomplished artist after studying at several art schools, including the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1929 O'Keeffe began visiting New Mexico, where she gained inspiration for many of her paintings. In 1946 she permanently relocated to Abiquiu, New Mexico. Georgia O'Keeffe was elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 1977 O'Keeffe was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor awarded to American citizens. Just a year before she died, she was awarded the National Medal of Arts.

## Great American Series: Senator Dennis Chavez 35¢ • Scott 2186 • 1991

Dennis Chavez (1888–1962) was born in Los Chavez, United States Mexican Territory (present-day New Mexico.) Although he had to quit school to help support his family, Chavez was able to take a special entrance examination, and was admitted to Georgetown University to study law. Following graduation he practiced law in Albuquerque. In 1922 Chavez was elected to the New Mexico state legislature. He was then elected to New Mexico's seat in the U.S. House of Representatives where he chaired the House Committee on Indian Affairs. In 1940 Dennis Chavez became the first Hispanic American to be elected to the U.S. Senate, where he served as a strong supporter of education and civil rights.

## American Arts: Willa Cather 8¢ • Scott 1487 • 1973

Willa Seibert Cather (1873–1947) is known for her novels based on the frontier life in the United States. Born in Virginia, Cather grew up in Nebraska, but throughout most of her adult life she lived in New York. Because of her many visits to New Mexico, the state is used as the setting for some of her writings, often staying at La Fonda Hotel in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She once wrote "The longer I stayed in the Southwest the more I felt that the story of the Catholic Church in that country was the most interesting of all its stories."

## Bill Mauldin 44¢ • Scott 4445 • 2010

Bill Mauldin (1921–2003) entered the U.S. Army in 1940. While in the Army he drew cartoons, eventually creating two cartoon infantrymen — Willie and his friend Joe. These cartoons were not only published in the *Stars and Stripes* (the American soldiers' newspaper) but were also syndicated in the United States. In 1945 Mauldin was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his distinguished service as a cartoonist. In 1959 he was awarded a second Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning. Bill Mauldin was born in Mountain Park, New Mexico.

## Enrico Fermi 34¢ • Scott 3533 • 2001

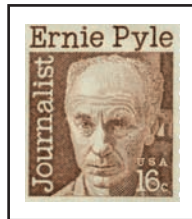
Enrico Fermi (1901–1954) was an Italian-born, naturalized American physicist particularly known for his work in nuclear physics. As a general consultant of the Manhattan Project (a U.S. government research project that produced the first atomic bombs) he moved to the Los Alamos, New Mexico, Laboratory. In 1938 Fermi was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on induced radioactivity.

## Richard Feynman 37¢ • Scott 3909 • 2005

Richard Feynman (1918–1988) was persuaded to become involved in the Manhattan Project in order to build an atomic bomb before Nazi Germany. As a junior physicist, his main work involved computations, such as calculating the yield of a fission bomb. Feynman also worked on calculating neutron equations for a nuclear reactor located at Los Alamos.



# New Mexican Famous People



Prominent American series:  
Ernie Pyle  
16¢ • Scott 1398 • 1971



American Arts: Willa Cather  
8¢ • Scott 1487 • 1973



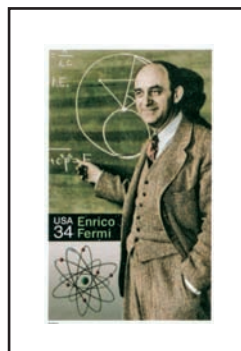
Georgia O'Keeffe  
32¢ • Scott 3069 • 1996



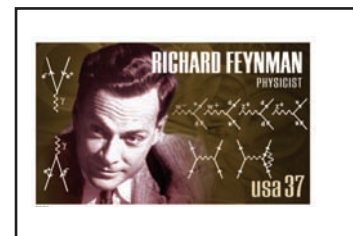
Bill Mauldin  
44¢ • Scott 4445 • 2010



Great American series  
Senator Dennis Chavez  
35¢ • Scott 2186 • 1991



Enrico Fermi  
34¢ • Scott 3533 • 2001



Richard Feynman  
37¢ • Scott 3909 • 2005



# *New Mexican Famous People*

**Classic Collections:  
Legends of the West — Charles Goodnight  
29¢ • Scott 2869l • 1994  
19¢ • UX189 • 1994**

Charles Goodnight (1836–1929) was born in Illinois, but by the age of 20 had moved into Texas where he entered the cattle business. He served with the Frontier Regiment of Texas Rangers in the Civil War, fought Indians, and became a noted guide. In the late 1860s he started his own cattle ranches — part of which were in New Mexico. His J.A. Ranch eventually embraced nearly a million acres and almost 100,000 cattle. Goodnight bred longhorns with Shorthorn and Hereford stock and crossed buffalo with Polled Angus cattle, producing the first “cattalo.” In the 1880s he founded and dominated a stockmen’s association, which paid local officials, employed its own counsel, prosecuted rustlers and other outlaws, suppressed vigilantism, and policed the cattle trails.

**Classic Collections:  
Legends of the West — Geronimo  
29¢ • Scott 2869m • 1994**

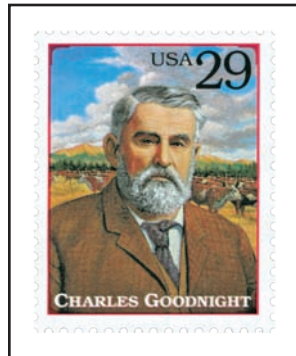
This Chiricahua Apache leader, Geronimo, (1829–1909) whose Indian name meant “One Who Yawns,” was born in what is now New Mexico. Embittered by the death of his mother, wife, and children at the hands of the Mexicans in 1858, Geronimo rose to leadership of warriors in a series of revenge raids on Mexican settlements. In the early 1870s, after some 4,000 Apaches had been forcibly moved by U.S. authorities to a barren wasteland in Arizona, Geronimo led hundreds of men from the reservation to resume their war against the whites. For several years U.S. troops pursued Geronimo’s small band, with at times as many as 5,000 soldiers and 500 Indian auxiliaries involved in the chase. He surrendered in 1886 and was sent to Fort Pickens, Florida, as a prisoner of war.

**Folks Heroes:  
Pecos Bill  
32¢ • Scott 3086 • 1996**

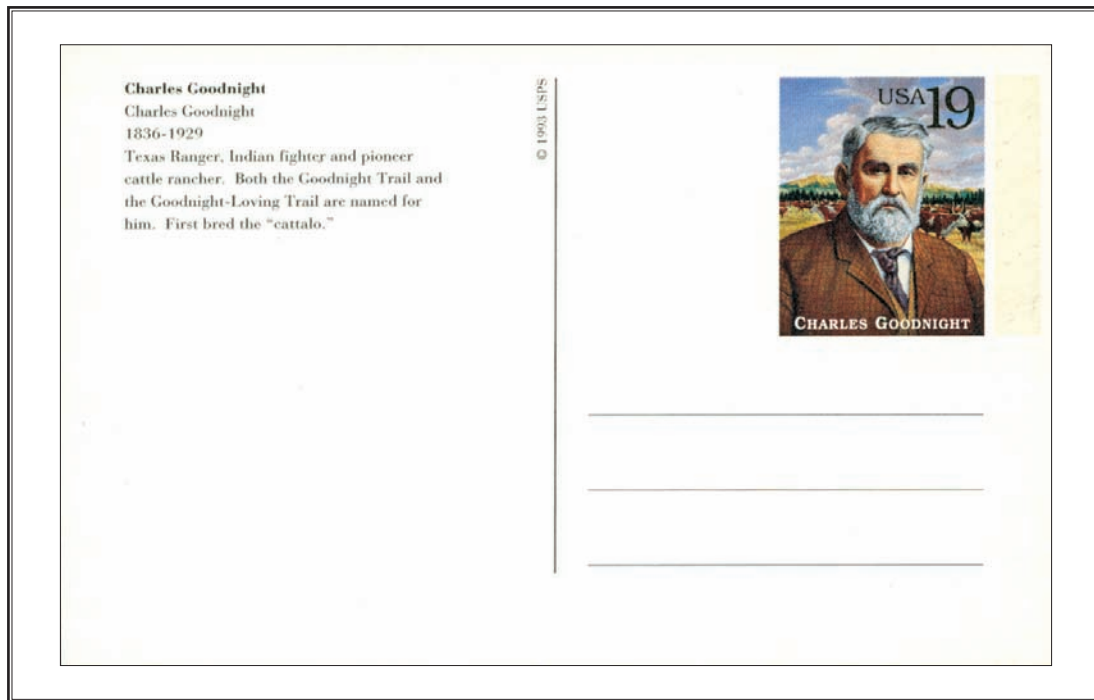
As the story was told among real cowboys sitting around their campfires, Pecos Bill fell from his family’s covered wagon near the Pecos River in New Mexico as they traveled west. Bill took on a number of fantastic attributes, becoming the strongest, toughest cowboy ever. He rode a mountain lion using a rattlesnake for a lasso, roped a railroad train, and rode a cyclone without a saddle. It was Pecos Bill who dug the Rio Grande and one time when he fell in California, the force of his fall created Death Valley. Astride his horse, Widow-Maker, Pecos Bill waged war on robbers and outlaws throughout New Mexico and the Southwest.



# New Mexican Famous People



Classic Collections:  
Legends of the West — Charles Goodnight  
29¢ • Scott 2869l • 1994



19¢ • UX189 • 1994



Classic Collections: Legends  
of the West — Geronimo  
29¢ • Scott 2869m • 1994



Folks Heroes: Pecos Bill  
32¢ • Scott 3086 • 1996



# *More in New Mexico*

## **Space: Pluto**

**29¢ • Scott 2577 • 1991**

As a young researcher, Clyde Tombaugh (1906–1997) was given the task of searching for a planet beyond Neptune, at the time the outermost planet in our solar system. In 1930, using an astrograph (a specialized instrument used to record images of astronomical objects and large areas of the night sky,) he discovered the dwarf planet Pluto. Tombaugh, who worked at the White Sands Missile Range, is also known for his serious scientific research of unidentified flying objects.

## **Space Shuttle Landing**

**\$3.20 • Scott 3261 • 1998**

To become a possible landing site for the Space Transportation System (Space Shuttles), the runways must be of sufficient length to provide adequate distance for the slowing down of a returning space shuttle.

NASA has chosen three sites in the United States: the prime landing site is the Shuttle Landing Facility at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, the second is the Edwards Air Force Base north of Los Angeles, California, and an emergency landing site is located at White Sands Space Harbor, near Alamogordo, New Mexico.

With a 15,000 foot runway and 10,000 foot extensions on either end, the White Sands Space Harbor has only been used for one landing of the space shuttle — the Columbia on March 31, 1982.

## **All Aboard! Twentieth Century Trains:**

### **Super Chief**

**33¢ • Scott 3337 • 1999**

In 1937 the Union Pacific railroad franchise launched a new streamlined passenger train — the Super Chief. Everything inside the Super Train was designed using authentic Native American colors (such as turquoise and copper,) patterns, murals, and paintings, reflecting the railroad's everlasting relationship with the Indians. Because of its direct route, many celebrities traveled the Super Chief from Chicago, Illinois to Los Angeles, California, giving it the nickname "The Train of the Stars."



## More in New Mexico



Space: Pluto  
29¢ • Scott 2577 • 1991



Space Shuttle Landing  
\$3.20 • Scott 3261 • 1998



All Aboard! Twentieth  
Century Trains: Super Chief  
33¢ • Scott 3337 • 1999



New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo



# *New Mexican Art*

## **American Folk Art: Pueblo Pottery**

**13¢ • Scott 1706–1709 • 1977**

The Pueblo Indians live Southwest United States, with the majority living in New Mexico. Spanish explorers gave these American Indians their name in the 1500s, as Pueblo towns resembled Spanish towns (“pueblo” is the Spanish word for “town”).

Pottery making is an important aspect of the various Pueblo communities. They continue to make their pottery the traditional way, fashioning it out of ropes of clay which they smooth before firing. These stamps depict the pottery of the Zia (New Mexico,) the San Ildefonso (New Mexico,) the Acoma Pot (New Mexico,) and the Hopi (Arizona.)

## **American Folk Art: Navajo Art**

**22¢ • Scott 2235–2238 • 1986**

The Navajo Indian nation is the largest Indian tribe in the United States, most of whom live on a reservation located in New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah. Most Navajo weavers are women. According to tribal lore, in the beginning the holy Spider Woman taught the women to weave. By ritual, each Navajo girl is prepared to carry on Spider Woman’s craft by first rubbing a spider’s web on her hands and arms. The legend says that “When she grows up, she will weave, and her fingers and arms will not tire from weaving.” The women are restricted to abstract designs, including the more complicated geometric, abstract, and zig-zag patterns. Only the Navajo men are allowed to create art showing man, animals, birds, or fish.



# New Mexican Art



American Folk Art: Pueblo Pottery  
13c • Scott 1706-1709 • 1977



Scott 1706



Scott 1707



Scott 1708



Scott 1709



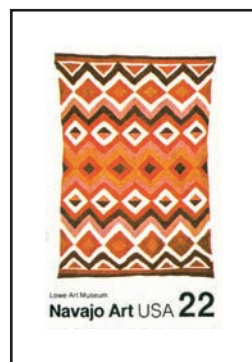
American Folk Art: Navajo Art  
22c • Scott 2235-2238 • 1986



Scott 2235



Scott 2236



Scott 2237



Scott 2238



# *New Mexican Art*

## **American Design, Navajo Necklace (aka Squash blossom) 2¢ • Scott 3750 • 2004**

By the late 1700s the Navajo metalworkers had learned the processes of cutting, stamping, and cold hammering silver into jewelry. The silversmiths adopted the naja — a crescent-shaped ornament found on the horse bridles of the Spanish who moved into Southwestern United States — as the centerpiece of many of their necklaces, known as the squash blossom necklace. According to the Navajo, the naja is purely decorative and serves no spiritual or other specific symbol. However, they hold it in very high regard.

## **Art of the American Indian: Mimbres Bowl 37¢ • Scott 3873a • 2004**

The Mimbres region is an area in southwestern North America that includes a portion of New Mexico. Mimbres pottery that was produced in this region is a very distinct black-on-white, with geometric designs and figurative paintings of animals, birds, fish, people, and cultural icons. Many bowls have been found at burial sites, often with marks on the insides of the bowls showing they were used and not just produced as a burial item.

## **Art of the American Indian: Acoma Bowl 37¢ • Scott 3873g • 2004**

Acoma pottery is made from slate-like clay found with the hills surrounding Acoma Pueblo in north central New Mexico. When fired, the clay allows the potter to form a very thin vessel wall, which may then be painted by both mineral- and vegetal-based paints. Potters frequently use rainbows, geometrics, and historic and prehistoric motifs, as well as polychrome designs, painted on the characteristic white background.

## **Art of the American Indian: Navajo Weaving 37¢ • Scott 3873h • 2004**

### **Rio Grande Blankets 37¢ • Scott 3926–3929 • 2005**

Navajo weavings are masterworks of art that transcend time and space. The original function of the weaving was to produce clothing — robes, dresses, shirts, belts, etc. In the late 1800s the Navajo began producing textiles to be marketed for income. The Navajo people say they learned to weave from Spider Woman and the first loom was of sky and earth cords. The weaving tools were sunlight, lightning, white shell, and crystal.



# New Mexican Art



Navajo Necklace  
(aka Squash blossom)  
2¢ • Scott 3750 • 2004



Mimbres Bowl  
37¢ • Scott 3873a • 2004



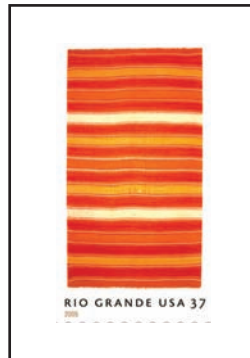
Acoma Bowl  
37¢ • Scott 3873g • 2004



Navajo Weaving  
37¢ • Scott 3873h • 2004



Rio Grande Blankets  
37¢ • Scott 3926–3929 • 2005



Scott 3926



Scott 3927



Scott 3928



Scott 3929



# *New Mexican National Park*

## **Carlsbad Caverns National Park**

**23¢ • Scott UX381 • 2002**

Carlsbad Caverns National Park is located in extreme southeastern New Mexico. The park provides habitat for more than 65 species of mammals, 350 species of birds, 5 species of fish, 55 different reptiles and amphibians, and more than 600 different insects.

Hidden beneath the rocky slopes and canyons, covered with grass, cactus, and thorny shrubs, lies one of the world's most famous cave systems — Carlsbad Caverns. More than 115 caves have been discovered, all formed when a very aggressive sulfuric acid dissolved the surrounding limestone. Carlsbad Caverns, with its huge underground chambers filled with spectacular cave formations, can be viewed by guided and/or self-guided tours.



# *New Mexican National Park*



**Carlsbad Caverns National Park**  
23¢ • Scott UX381 • 2002



# *New Mexico*



# *New Mexico*





# THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

A special thank you to John DeBoo, editor of *Albuquerque Philatelic Society*, for his assistance in identifying and helping with the write-ups of the stamps related to the state of New Mexico.

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