February saw the start of the RPA Membership DRIVE '78. A special edition of the "H & T" was print and made available to the collecting public at the Collector's Show the last weekend of February. The May 11th RPA Meeting will feature an "Open House" program. RPA members' guests are welcome to come to the Open House.

The Postal Service Board of Governors named William F. Bolger, 54, a 37-year veteran of government service, to succeed Benjamin F Bailar as the new Postmaster General.

Bolger, Bailar's deputy since 1975, will become the first career postal employee to become postmaster general in more than 30 years. He will take office March 15 and receive a $66,000 salary.

The RPA February meeting featuring the Postmaster of Rochester, served as a sounding board to Rochester's philatelic public. It was announced that Rochester will have a full-service Philatelic Sales Unit at the Main Post Office (Henrietta) scheduled to open late March-early April. As of March 1st there is a philatelic clerk at the Main Post Office whose window will be open Monday-Friday, 2:00-5:00 pm. All the current issues are available through the philatelic clerk. More about Rochester's entrance into the 150 + 1 units around the country in the next "H & T".

NEW POSTAL RATES may go into effect in mid-April '78 if the Postal Rate Commission has not transmitted its recommended decision in the next 6 weeks. We may end up with the Citizens' Business first class rates. Effective April 1st, Canada's new first class rate, along with other rates, will increase from 12c to 14c.

In February, William D. Erwin, the RPA Treasurer and ROPEX '78 Chairman died suddenly. The RPA, deeply regrets its loss of this outstanding man, one of the club's most active members. Betty V. Miller has been appointed Treasurer and Chip Hamblin will be acting chairman of ROPEX '78.
MARCH MEETINGS

March 9th - Auction Night, this will be a regular auction with 10 lots per member limit. Official auction lots will be available at the meeting.

March 23rd - "Special Six Page Show", the theme of this 6-page show is "BIRTHDAYS" and will honor the RPA's 65th anniversary. The show is open to members only and prizes will be awarded. This show is for first timers as well as pro. Each member is allowed to exhibit two different 6-page frames. 6-page frames will be available at the meet but please notify Larry Moriarty at the March 9th meeting the number of frames you'll be needing. If you have more questions contact Larry. It is hoped that there will be several exhibits!

NEW STAMP ISSUES

March 8 - U.S., American Quilts, four 13¢ tenant stamps honoring folk art
March 7 - Canada, definitives, three low values 14¢ Queen Elizabeth and Parliament- 30¢ Red Oak.
March 31 - Canada, Commonwealth Games, two stamps at 14¢ each.

RPA MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIPS BY SENDING A CHECK FOR $3.50 which covers 1977 dues. Make CHECK PAYABLE to the Rochester Philatelic Association and send to: Betty V. Miller, P.O. Box 3806, Brighton Station, Rochester, N.Y. 14610. After the April "H & T" mailing those members who have not paid their dues will be dropped from the mailing list and RPA membership will be renewed.

CAPEX '78 TRIP

Members who are interested in going to CAPEX '78 should contact Dr. Joel at one of the March Meetings. The Trip will cost $66.00 which includes the bus trip up and back plus hotel rooms. You must act shortly or you'll miss out on the planned CAPEX trip!

RPA NOMINATIONS

This is to notify all RPA Members in good standing: nominations for all RPA positions and a few of the Board of Governors positions will be considered at the May Meetings.

ROPEX '78

The USPS will have a philatelic sales center at ROPEX '78. The United Nations and Sweden will also be represented. The dealer bourse has been sold out which includes dealers from the U.S. and Canada. There will be a special show cancel and cachet featuring the show's theme the 125th anniversary of the founding of the New York Central Railroad. RPA members are encouraged to enter exhibits into ROPEX '78 as of this mailing only a few exhibits are from current RPA members! Judges and visiting societies will be announced shortly in the local and philatelic press. ROPEX BOOSTERs are needed, for $1 your name will be printed in the ROPEX '78 program booklet. Booster money should be directed to John Kellas at any of the March meetings or mailed to the RPA address.

SEND TO: Betty V. Miller
P.O. BOX 3806
Brighton Station
Rochester, N.Y. 14610


Sincerely,

TOTAL ENCLOSED: $_____

P.S. Here's $1.00 for ROPEX '78 BOOSTER donations; please list my name in the Official ROPEX '78 Program as it appear above.