 higher rates

With rumors flying and uncertainty at every turn, most sources seem to indicate that postal rates can be expected to increase yet this summer.

The Postal Rate Commission reportedly set aside the period from about May 1 to June 15 for reconsideration of the U.S. Postal Service's rate case.

The first decision by the PRC was accepted under protest by the Postal Service Board of Governors and returned for further consideration.

Postal officials seemed encouraged by PRC requests for additional information and further arguments.

Earlier reports that the PRC was likely to reject the USPS bid for a 20-cent first-class stamp have now softened, with current rumors ranging from predictions of another rejection to granting allowance of the 20-cent rate.

Some recent court decisions may enter the picture.

Specifically, one or two recent court rulings have upheld the right of the Board of Governors to modify PRC actions under certain conditions.

PRC actions have been modified in the past by the Board of Governors, and recent court victories have upheld the governors right to do so by an unanimous vote.

Clouding the issue is the fact that these legal tests have also involved — directly or indirectly — mail classifications as well as rates.

Special classifications have been involved in these tests, and the modification of rates that do not hinge on mail classifications is still uncertain.

Thus, there is still the question of whether or not the recent court cases — involving such groups as the National Easter Seal Society and phased nonprofit discount rates, and Time Inc. and certain bulk rates — provide the authority necessary for the Board of Governors to overrule the PRC if it rejects the request for a 20c rate.

In the April 13 Federal Times, while PRC rejection still seemed likely, it was speculated that the Board of Governors might "decide — by a unanimous vote — to substitute its own remedy, which could mean a first-class stamp of 29c or more before the end of this fiscal year."

Regardless of the source, most indications now point to a first-class stamp higher than 18c. It remains to be seen how soon this change will occur, and who will approve it.

The PRC decision is expected on or after June 15, after which events are expected to develop rapidly.

JUNE ‘81

MEETINGS

June 11 "Annual RPA Business Meeting & Elections". Enclosed with this issue of the "HAT" is the RPA's Election Ballot listing RPA members who are running for offices. There is only one ballot per member which can be presented in person at the Business Meeting or mailed in by June 25, 1981. Please plan to attend the RPA's Business Meeting on June 25 "Strawberry Stamp FEST’81". This will be the last RPA meeting of 1980-81 after which the RPA breaks off for the summer (NO MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST). The evening program will mix strawberries & a Silent Auction (5 lots + donation lot per member) Also the results of the RPA Election will be announced. See you all there. 8:00pm.

July/August: There will be a RPA Summer Picnic which WILL be announced well in advance as to the dates, time, place, etc.

new Souvenir folder

A new souvenir folder is announced to go on sale June 8, containing the new Space Achievement commemorative block of eight 15-cent stamps.

The folder, described by the U.S. Postal Service as its latest philatelic product, is priced at $2.

The item is to be sold starting June 8 at over 13,000 "Stamp Collecting Centers" nationwide (philatelic centers, offices with philatelic windows, etc.). The Space Achievement souvenir folder may also be ordered by mail from the Philatelic Sales Division, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, D.C. 20265.

The folder is listed as Item No. 833, although it is not included in the latest Philatelic Catalog from the USPS.

Mail orders are subject to a $5 minimum order requirement and a 50c handling charge.
RPA TREASURER’S REPORT FOR JULY 1 / JUNE 31
1980 - 1981

EXPENSES:

Cash
Outstanding $35.64
Room Rental $315.00
Postage, Rental $66.00
Pagan Copy Center, "H&T" Printing $156.19
Ben’s Printing, "H&T" Printing $40.51
Gestetner, Paper supplies & Ink $119.80
Postage, "H&T" Mailing $242.60
RPA Insurance $180.00
APS Circuits $42.50
Bank Service Charges & Maintenance Fees $18.50
SPF, APS, NPFSC 1981 Dues $30.00
Jim Flynn Funeral Flowers $21.40
RPA Birthday Cake $14.99
Library Books $95.00
Refreshments $2.00
Other Postage & Telephone Calls $5.30
Office supplies $4.39
Awards $50.00
Total $1439.22

INCOME:

Start of New Year 7/1/80 $343.15
Club Dues $358.75
Donations $107.95
Interest from Certificates $470.27
Balance in Saving Acc. $31.77
Balance in Checking ACC. $17.38
RPA Auction Donation & Penny Stamp Box $59.95
ROPEX ’81 advance to RPA $50.00
Total $1439.22

ASSETS:

$1200.00 Certificate due Sept. 16, 1981
$3000.00 Certificate due July 1982
$4200.00 TOTAL

BOOKS:

The Philatelic Sales Unit is changing its evening hours. During the months of May, June, July, and August 1981 the Philatelic evening hours will be on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The location of the philatelic window is at the Main Rochester P.O., General Mail Facility, 1335 Jefferson Road. This is a special time period for the stamp collector.

As of June 11, 1981 the RPA has a total membership of 134: 108 regular 1 junior 25 Lifers plus 3 Honoraries plus 2 guests Total 142
Members dropped: 14

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