



HEADQUARTERS, SOUTHERN REGION  
Memphis, TN. 38166

December 12, 1975

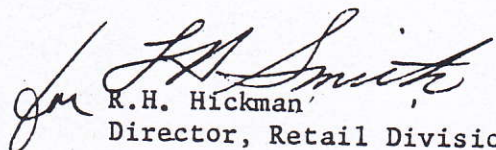
The following facts obtain in the matter of cancellations provided after normal business hours, on July 15, 1975 at the Cape Canaveral post office:

1. The Cape Canaveral post office has had a long historical involvement with the American space program. It has traditionally provided many philatelic services in response to large collector demand.
2. On July 13, in response to numerous requests for cancellations in conjunction with the July 15 Apollo launch of the joint American-Russian space mission, the Cape Canaveral Postmaster placed a sign in the post office window that covers deposited as late as twelve midnight July 15 would receive a same day postmark.
3. Approximately 50,000 covers were deposited for Cape Canaveral cancellations between the normal closing hours of 5:00 P.M. and midnight on July 15.
4. The only employee on duty during these hours was the postmaster. No overtime was used. The Cape Canaveral postmaster did what ever so many postal employees do each day of their postal career - provide their customers the best possible service even if it means inconveniencing themselves and going beyond the absolute requirements of the job. The Cape Canaveral postmaster's only remuneration for the extra effort July 15 was the satisfaction of a job well done. There was no extra expense to the U.S. Postal Service.

Considering the documented evidence you provided me and the information I received from the Cape Canaveral post office, I see no reason to doubt the authenticity of Mr. Coelle's covers.

If I can be of further service to you, please contact me.

Sincerely,

  
R.H. Hickman  
Director, Retail Division