

APOLLO 13 - A SPACE FLIGHT TO BE REMEMBERED

"The three astronauts did not reach the Moon, but they reached the hearts of millions of people in America and in the world".....Those were the words of President Nixon as he stopped in Houston to pick up the wives of Apollo 13 astronauts Capt. James A. Lovell, Jr. and Fred W. Haise, Jr., to fly them to Hawaii with a reunion with their husbands. And those words very aptly sum up the feelings of all.

And to a stamp collector there is the old adage that "a cover tells the real story". We are happy to say that since Apollo 13 turned out safely in the end, we feel that the covers done by Space City Cover Society do tell the full story and we would like to send them along with these comments.

As you know, a last-minute decision was made by NASA to substitute John L. Swigert, Jr. for crew member Thomas K. Mattingly, II. Our covers were already printed, stamped, stuffed and ready for proper cancelling. After some deep thought we decided to leave the crew picture on them, and add the wording about the crew change. Then, on that fateful April 13th, the Moon Landing was cancelled and it became a mission of just getting the men back to the good Earth. Our covers had been prepared for Moon Landing and Moon Takeoff. Since they both picture the Lunar Module, we felt that it was most appropriate to go ahead and use them. This was especially significant since the Lunar Module had become a space lifeboat for them. Their safe return depended on how the LM reacted to all that it would be subjected to. It was not built for such a mission, but in the end it, like the rest of all of NASA men and machines, came through when it had to.

As a result, we feel that these four covers tell the complete story and are bound to be collector's items in time to come. This has been borne out by the fact that we have had requests for just about as many covers since April 13 as we had in the weeks before. Aren't you glad you ordered yours early?????

Double cancels are scarce and through some mighty efforts on the part of many we were able to get a few hundred of our Liftoff covers cancelled at Kennedy Space Center in Florida. This is a rarity in itself as they usually limit their cancelling to just two per person. Then we had them flown into Houston and again cancelled on the face with a Houston, Texas handcancel on April 17, p.m. splashdown time (CST). Normally such a cover would sell for at least \$3.00 but ours are not for sale. We are going to give one per person to each one that orders one of the Apollo 13 .999 fine silver medals, which are also consecutively numbered. You who have our earlier medals know their quality and due to the world-wide interest that has developed in Apollo 13, we feel that these are going to really prove to be an eye-catching addition to your collection. This free cover will be given as long as the supply lasts, and will have to be limited to one per medal ordered. If you order two medals, there will be two of the covers sent with them. Price of the medals are our usual price of \$9.80, postpaid.

TO: SPACE CITY COVER SOCIETY, P. O. BOX 53545, Houston, Texas 77052

Please send me _____ Apollo 13 .999 fine silver medal(s), consecutively numbered. (Each medal to be accompanied by one free cover as described above). Price @ \$9.80 \$ _____
(Enclosed is my check or money order)

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE) _____ ZIP _____