

October 1, 1967 TAAL VOLCANO ERUPTION VICTIMS STAMPS

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During the next few years (it cannot exactly be said just how long), postal patrons throughout the Philippines will be supporting the next further step taken by the government to extend the greatest aid possible to the unfortunate victims of the eruption of Taal Volcano in the province of Batangas.

Considered one of the major disasters in modern history, the eruption of Taal on the early morning hours of September 28, 1965 shocked the entire world. Hundreds were dead, injured and missing.

The Philippine National Red Cross with the assistance of the Philippine Constabulary, Philippine Army and the Philippine Air Force, brought immediate relief and medical supplies for the evacuees who were fleeing from the wrath of falling molten rocks, scalding mud and ashes. Volunteers from Manila and nearby provinces promptly responded to the call for help.

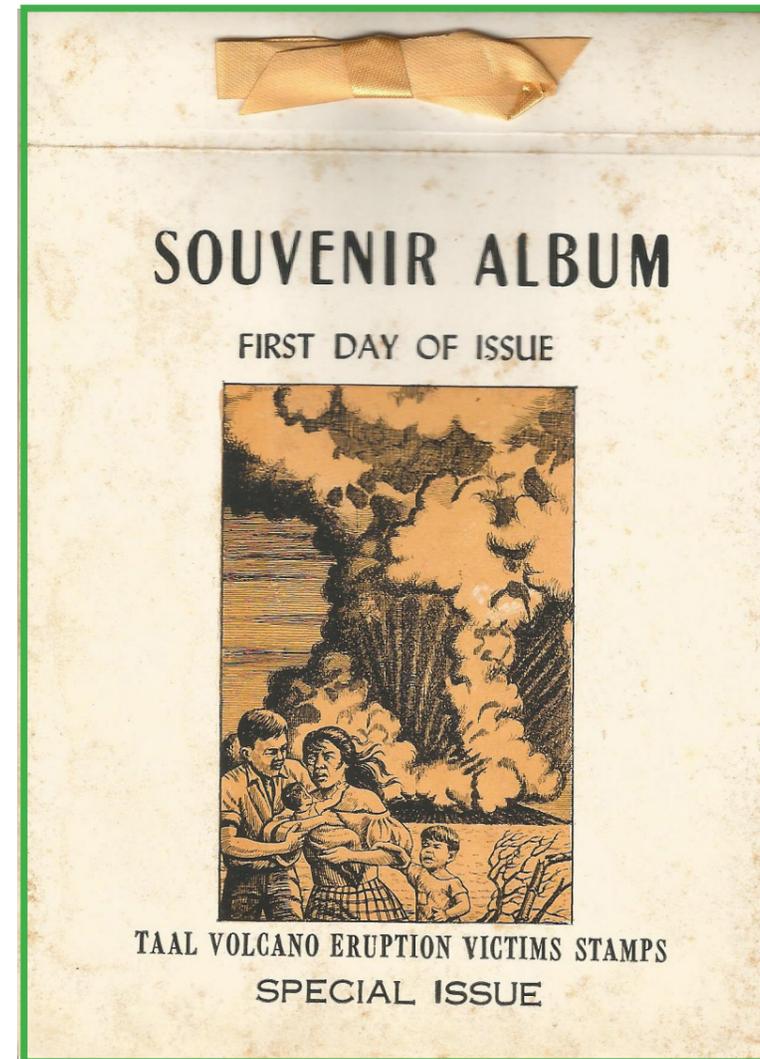
The arduous humanitarian task of extending succor and alleviating the sufferings of the victims became greater when a second explosion occurred in July 1966.

Before the second explosion took place, Congress passed and approved a measure to insure the continued assistance to the helpless victims until they are fully rehabilitated.

Thus, Republic Act No. 4665 entitled "An Act Requiring the Printing and Sale of Seventy Centavos Air Mail Postage Stamps to Raise Funds for the Victims of the Taal Volcano Eruption" will be implemented by the Postmaster General beginning October 1, 1967.

SECTION 1 of said Act provides as follows:

"SEC. 1. In order to raise funds for the victims of the Taal Volcano eruption of September, 1965 the Postmaster General shall order the printing of seventy centavos air-mail postal stamps in the total aggregate value of seven million pesos. Said stamps shall depict the Taal Volcano in eruption and with such other motif as the Postmaster General may decide. Until all stamps are sold and disposed of, and subject to existing laws, regulations and international postal agreements governing postal rates, no foreign air-mail matter shall be accepted and/or carried by the Bureau of Posts which do not use said stamps; however, in cases where the air-mail matter mailed is of such class or weight that stamps due are in excess of seventy centavos or multiples of seventy centavos, any other stamp or stamps of different denominations can be used to cover said excess. The proceeds of the sale of said air-mail stamps shall constitute a special trust fund and deposited with the National Treasury to be expended in the rehabilitation of the victims of Taal Volcano eruption of September, 1965."



A third explosion occurred in August, 1967. It is therefore timely that the above law starts on October 1, 1967 when the Bureau of Posts will issue a special issue, 28 x 48 mm, horizontally composed 70-centavos denomination stamp. This was printed by heliogravure process in 5 colors with 50 stamps to a sheet by the Government Printing Bureau of Tokyo, Japan. The design which was based on a picture of the Taal Volcano in eruption on September 28, 1964 with evacuees on the foreground escaping from the scene of disaster, was designed by philatelic artist Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr.

The five million stamps printed for the purpose will be sold but the termination of the period cannot be determined.

Until such time then, the country thru the Bureau of Posts will be working together for the greater service to our fellowmen . . . the victims of the eruption of Taal Volcano.

