

the nation

Postmaster credits rate hike

Postal service could show profit in future

United Press International
HARTFORD, Conn. — Postmaster General William Bolger says postal rates, more mechanization and improved management of the U.S. Postal Service headed toward something it hasn't accomplished in 34 years — a profit. Bolger probably won't ask for another postal rate increase for at least another two years. He has a \$518 million surplus but that probably won't carry him to that amount, Bolger said today, adding any surplus reduced by the end of the 1979 fiscal

year Sept. 30 would not represent a "substantial portion."
He attributed the surplus to improved management, added mechanization and the 2-cent increase approved in May 1978. The increase from 13 cents to 15 cents for first-class mail generated "a couple of billion dollars" alone, he said.
Bolger told a meeting of the service's Board of Governors the profit would be the first since 1945. The service, which became an independent operation in 1971, ran a deficit of \$375 million in fiscal 1978.
On another subject, Bolger said

the gasoline shortage has had minimal effect on his drivers but has affected revenues. He said each 1-cent boost in the cost of a gallon of gas cost the agency \$3.5 million a year.
"We're trying to get more carriers to walk," he said. "We're a big user of energy, so we're trying to conserve in our heating and cooling."
Bolger said the Postal Service buys 50 percent of its gas in bulk and supplies it at its own pumps. The rest, mostly for rural areas or at small post offices, is supplied by local gas stations.

Authorities warn against mixing alcohol and hot tubs

United Press International
VENTURA, Calif. — An association of manufacturers of hot tubs is warning users against using alcohol while simmering, citing the case of an inebriated couple who died in their hot tub.

ing such a warning even before the report.
His comments followed a report by the Ventura County Coroner's office on the deaths of a retired Navy officer, Wesley La Roza, 58, and his wife, Helen, 53, whose bodies were found in their hot tub May 15.

legal standard for intoxication. A count of 0.50 can be fatal.
"A reconstruction of the events indicates that the couple had been drinking heavily," the coroner's report said. It added that the La Rozas passed out or fell asleep in the tub while the water temperature climbed.
The water in the La Roza tub may have risen to about 130 degrees.
Doctors said temperatures in such tubs should be set at about 100 or 101. The industry suggested maximum of 104 is too hot for many people, according to the Ventura coroner's office.

Sticker poll rates Carter job

United Press International
BOSTON — A Boston alternative weekly newspaper, The Boston Phoenix, has launched the first political straw poll masquerading as bumper stickers.

The report said La Roza's blood alcohol count was 0.41, enough to cause unconsciousness, and his wife's was 0.32, well beyond the

Readers find the bumper stickers the folds of their papers. It says: "Confidence. I Have It. I Have It."
On the side of each statement is a box, and an "x" which can be Tuesday but checked in to the reader's choice. If the lava on the side is a detachable corner molten lava which readers to register their sense of the village.
Initial returns are any indication. Carter is faring poorly among 75,000 relatively young, well-educated Phoenix subscribers.
Of 500 readers who clipped the portion of the sticker and returned it to the newspaper during the first week, 135 said they had confidence in Carter and 358 said they did not.

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