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THE KEYNOTER

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL ITEMS CONSERVATORS



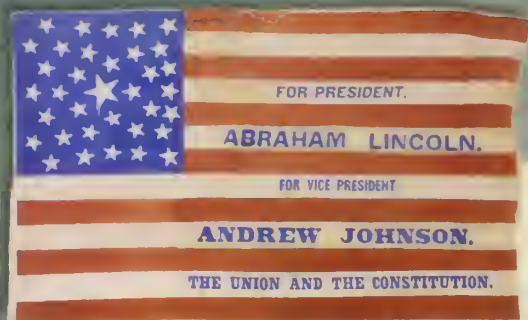
The Kansas Sunflower

The Goat Gland Doctor • JFK and Nixon in 1946
In Memoriam: Gerald Ford • The Champion Hopeful

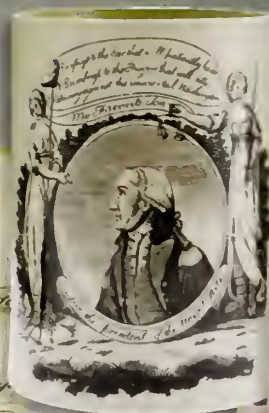
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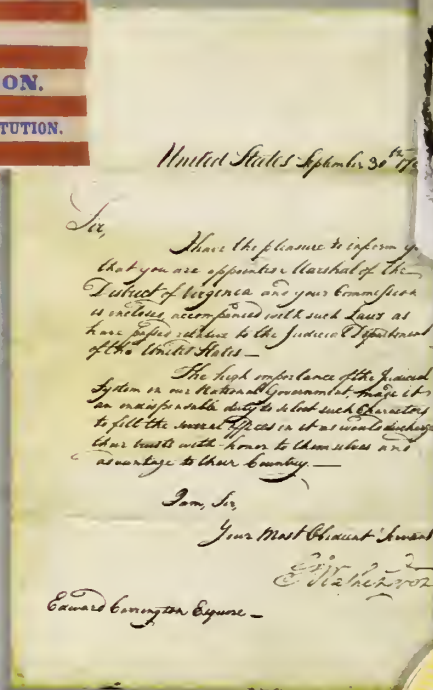
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United States September 30th 1776
Dear Sir,
I have the pleasure to inform you
that you are appointed Marshal of the
District of Virginia and your Commission
is enclosed accompanied with such Laws as
have passed relative to the Judicial Department
of the United States -
The high importance of the Judicial
System in our National Government, & the
importance which attaches to the discharge
of the several Offices in it, as well as the
high trust with honor to them, will
asurgate to their Country -
I am, Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant
Edw. Livingston
Edward Livingston Esquire -

Washington Letter Signed
Price Realized - \$21,000



G.W. Inaugural Button
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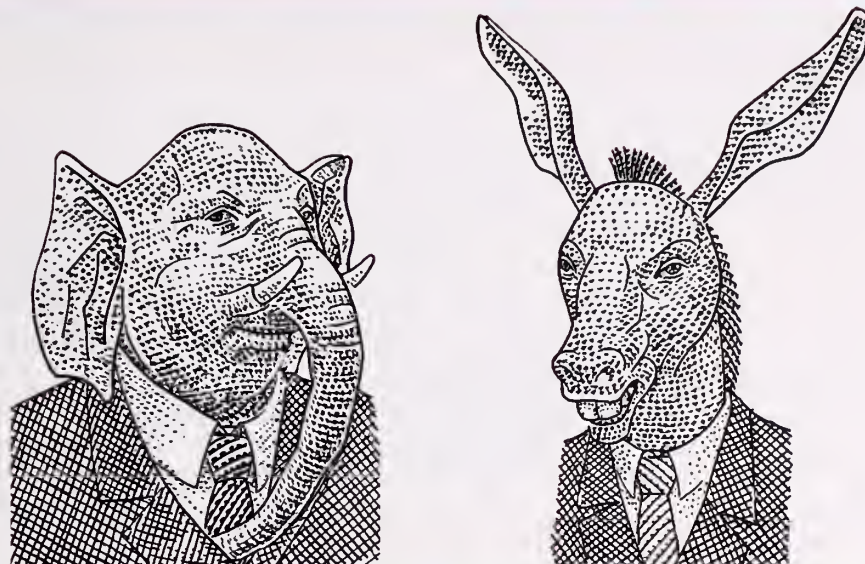
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FROM THE APIC PRESIDENT



THE KANSAS SUNFLOWER ISSUE

Dear fellow APIC members:

Hats off to Michael Kelly and the Keynoter editorial board for yet another sensational issue! This current issue of our quarterly journal contains a variety of articles, reflecting the variety of interests maintained by our membership. One of the fundamental aspects of APIC, and a main reason this is such an outstanding organization, is our ability to conserve and collect so many varied aspects of American political history. Whether you collect modern material, items from our founding fathers, or cause and issue material, there is an enjoyable and worthwhile place within APIC where your interests can be explored and enjoyed.

Please do take time to review and utilize APIC's new website. It is located at the same web address, www.apic.us. More improvements and features will be added, so stay tuned.

Yours in progress,

Brian E. Krapf



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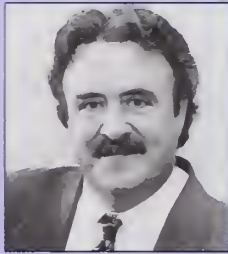
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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Just after Christmas we lost former president Gerald R. Ford. Dr. Mark Griffith and other APIC members wrote to share their remembrances about the late president. "I was just coming of age at the time," Griffith recalled, "I'd lived through the Nixon era and was becoming aware of my surroundings...He was such a polar opposite of Nixon's personality. It made him probably the perfect man for the job."



The campaign of 1976 was one of the closest in our history. Many political historians believe that Ford was closing so fast at the end that he would have won had the election been two or three days later than it was (much in the way that Hubert Humphrey was closing in on Richard Nixon in 1968). How different the Republican Party might be today had Ford won that election.

Forty years before the election of 1976, another quiet Midwesterner was aiming for the White House, Governor Alf Landon of Kansas. Landon, however, never got close. He was running against the most successful presidential politician in American history: Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Nonetheless, Landon provided our hobby with some of our most unusual campaign material: the sunflower buttons. As this issue shows, Landon was not the only politician to use the sunflower. We owe a special thanks to Trent LeDoux, not only for writing his fun article about the "goat gland" doctor who ran for governor but also for sharing his deep knowledge of Kansas politics and his collection of political (and non-political) sunflower items. The willingness of our members to share their collections is a constant source of pleasure. Only days before we went to press, Bob Fratkin called James Carrico looking for some key Landon coattails. On less than an hour's notice, Carrico dug up the items and met with Fratkin and Illustrations Editor Germaine Broussard to have them photographed. That's the APIC spirit!

Michael Kelly
Editor

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ILLUSTRATIONS--The editor wishes to thank the following for providing illustrations for this issue: Al Anderson, Larry Brokofsky, Germaine Broussard, Stanley Campbell, James Carrico, Robert Fratkin, Tom French, David and Janice Frent, John Gingerich, Harvey Goldberg, Ted Hake, Heritagegalleries.com, Trent LeDoux, Pat Lenington, Norman Lowenstern, Milo Payne, Tom Pendergrass, and Tom Tedford.

FRONT COVER--A colorful license plate attachment featuring Kansas Governor Alf Landon and his running mate, publisher Frank Knox.

SUBMISSIONS--*This is your publication. Please feel free to share your ideas, suggestions, illustrations and stories. The Keynoter is delighted to share pictures of interesting political Americana with its readers. When submitting an illustration, send it as an .eps, .jpg or .pdf file to mkelly@mcc.edu. Illustrations should be in color and submitted in digital format with at least 300 dpi resolution (preferably higher). Files must be created at 100% of actual size or larger (smaller risks losing clarity). Digital electronic images should be saved to a minimum of 300 dpi as TIF, GIG, JPEG or EPS files, preferably in Adobe Photoshop.*

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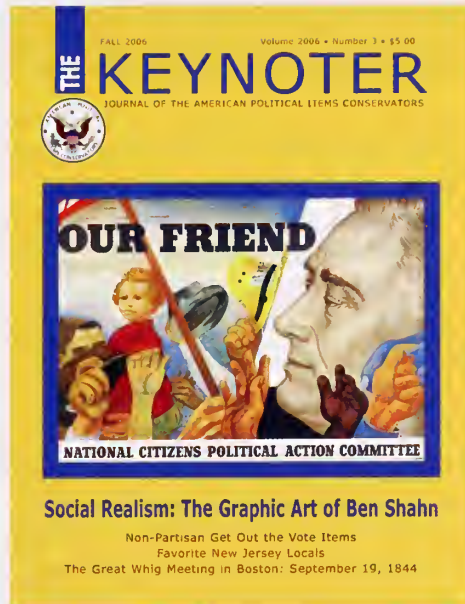
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I received an advance copy of the Fall Keynoter at the Ohio APIC show. Wow! The graphics you included are significant and excellent. Even more than I had expected. Nicely done.

Regards,
Glenn Soden (APIC #3107)
(author of the Ben Shahn Article)

The Ben Shahn art issue was superb. Keep up your lavish use of color!

Regards,
Ted Watts (APIC #146)



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The Kansas Sunflower

By Michael Kelly and Stephen Cresswell

One of the most unusual symbols in American politics is the sunflower. Most obviously identified with 1936 Republican presidential nominee Alf Landon, it has had a long and enduring political career.

The sunflower symbolizes Kansas and appears on the official state flag. The true Kansas sunflower, *Helianthus annuus*, is hardy and can withstand Kansas droughts and floods. Early sunflower items were all Kansas-related.

Presidential candidates from William Howard Taft and William Jennings Bryan to Bob Dole and Ross Perot have used items bearing the sunflower.

One of the earliest items promotes Bryan and relates to the 1908 Democratic National Convention, held in Denver. It is a two-sided badge probably worn by Kansas delegates.

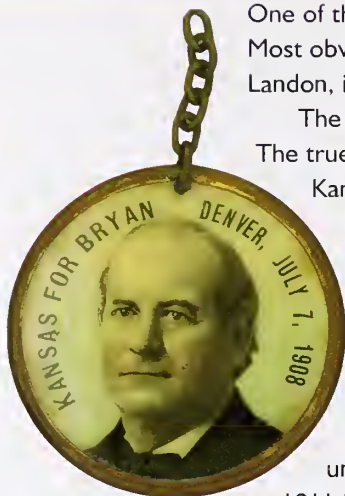
(Interestingly, the 1900 convention had been held in Kansas City, Missouri, next door to Kansas City, Kansas, but I am unaware of any 1900 sunflower items). A later postcard from 1911 boosts President William Taft with the sunflower.

Another early sunflower item was issued for Edmund N. Morrill, U.S. Congressman from 1883 to 1891 and governor of Kansas from 1895 to 1897.

The 1 1/4" Wagstaff pin is from Republican Thomas E. Wagstaff who ran for Governor in 1910, losing in the Republican primary. Like Alf Landon, Wagstaff hailed from Independence, Kansas in the southeast corner of the state. In 1936, when Landon was nominated for President, Wagstaff served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention.

Another Kansas politician to become a presidential hopeful was Arthur Capper. Republican Capper was elected governor in 1914 and was re-elected to a second term in 1916. Capper did not seek a third gubernatorial term, but ran instead for the U.S. Senate in 1918. He was elected to five consecutive terms, serving until 1949. At least two sunflower items are known for Arthur Capper, including a 1913 "Capper Family

Reunion" button and a jugate with his lieutenant governor from a 1915 event in Southern California.



The "Pullin' for Paulen" item is a cardboard display item that measures approximately 6" in diameter. Republican Ben Paulen ran for Governor of Kansas in 1924 and served for two terms until 1929. He ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate against George McGill in 1932.



Another handsome sunflower button boosts Republican Clyde M. Reed, elected Governor of Kansas in 1929, after becoming known as a candidate for being extremely progressive. Shortly after he moved into the governor's mansion, the Great Depression began. Reed called an extra session of the state legislature to combat the troubles faced by Kansans dealing with the depression. The governor decided not to run for re-election but when the anti-Semitic preacher Gerald B. Winrod ran for the Republican nomination for the United States Senate in 1938 and seemed likely to win it, Reed was recruited by the mainstream political establishment as a popular figure who could prevent Winrod's election. Reed won, serving in the Senate with his fellow former governor, Arthur Capper. Reed was re-elected in 1944.



The Woodring item is unique. It is a cast iron "thing" approximately 7 inches across (perhaps a license plate attachment or a kitchen hot pad). Democrat Harry Woodring was the beneficiary of the Great Conspiracy of 1930 described in a following article. That year Independent John R. Brinkley was probably elected Governor of Kansas as a write-in. However, the Republicans and Democrats conspired to keep the kooky Brinkley out of office by

having their respective county election officials insist that Brinkley's name was spelled correctly and written out completely before a voter's write-in vote would be counted for the infamous Goat-Gland Doctor. As a result of the extra-harsh canvass, Woodring was narrowly elected. In 1932, Woodring was defeated by Republican Alf Landon who was the only Republican to unseat a Democratic Governor in that very Democratic year. Woodring went on to serve as FDR's Secretary of War from 1936-40.



Kansas Senator Charles Curtis was a powerful figure in his day. Curtis served as Senate Majority Leader and Vice President under Herbert Hoover. A nice Curtis picture button (sometimes seen with a ribbon) was issued in 1928 with a felt sunflower attached to the button, foreshadowing the use of felt sunflowers in 1936. That same era saw a sunflower button issued for U.S. Senator George

McGill of Kansas. McGill was elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate in 1930 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Charles Curtis when he became



Vice President. McGill was reelected in 1932 but defeated for reelection in 1938. He fought hard to get back into the Senate and was an unsuccessful candidate for the Senate in 1942, 1948, and 1954.

The 1936 presidential campaign has to be the highpoint of the political sunflower, when Kansas Governor Alf Landon challenged President Franklin Delano Roosevelt for re-election. In that year, the button industry was, artistically, at a low point. After producing incredibly beautiful buttons in an uncounted array of colors between 1896 and about



1916, by 1936 buttons were most commonly red, white, and blue lithos. Word pins were more common than picture buttons, and when the candidate was pictured, chances are the button was in black and white.

That would change with the Landon campaign, which had the rarity of a unifying symbol. Well over half the Landon campaign items featured the sunflower. Although Al Smith had his derby and TR his bullmoose, few candidates in the 20th century have made such extensive use of a symbol.

Further, the Landon campaign cleverly moved away from the red, white, and blue color schemes almost everyone used, and instead made millions of buttons in brown and yellow. Other than Jimmy Carter's use of green and white, no presidential campaign ever so heavily used an alternative to the traditional red, white and blue color scheme.

As if all this were not innovation enough, the Landonites also provided the novelty of a backing for their buttons--usually made of felt--in the shape of a sunflower. The result was eye-catching buttons that did yeoman's work as campaign advertising items.

In his book *The Politics of Upheaval*, historian Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. describes how the GOP convention hall "burst into a dazzle of sunflowers" when Landon was nominated.

In New York City the Republicans opened a "Sunflower Shop" on Broad Street. The shop was staffed by young women of the "Landon Volunteers" organization, who were present to answer questions, hand out pamphlets, and above all, to sell sunflower buttons. The buttons proved very popular with the public, which had never seen anything like them. The first run of 200,000 was gone as early as June 12, forcing party officials to hurriedly order more while public demand increased.



Meanwhile Democratic union members assailed the Landon sunflowers for being manufactured in sweat-shop conditions "by home workers in sunless rooms." Those complaining were members of the Artificial Flower Workers' Union. Union spokesmen complained that Republicans were using a New York company to manufacture the sunflower buttons, a company that had a "union-smashing record."

Of course, these union members were hardly impartial in the presidential race. Their union was co-operating with the American Labor Party and supporting Roosevelt.

Actually, "home work" was used in the manufacture of both Landon and Roosevelt buttons. While the making of lithos and cellos was highly mechanized, the one task that was still labor-intensive was the inserting of pins in the backs of the buttons. The *New York Times* reported that during periods of peak demand Bastian Brothers sent trucks full of buttons into the rural areas around their Rochester base, dropping the product off at hundreds of farm houses. Farm wives and children inserted the pins, and the trucks returned the next day to pick up the assembled products. "Thus," wrote the *New York Times* journalist, "Maud Muller and her little brother, the barefoot boy with cheek of tan, help the mighty statesmen to save the country in election years."

The Democrats had not expected buttons to be so important. FDR campaign chair James A. Farley explained sheepishly in October that the Roosevelt campaign was running a deficit.

The reason? "We had to buy 20,000,000 buttons." Several of the Democratic buttons focused on sunflowers. Some of the cleverest pictured a sunflower and had the legend "We Can't Eat Sunflowers." Democratic literature made use of the slogan "Sunflowers Die in November." Still other Democratic items turned to rhyme: "Back on the Rocks with Landon and Knox."

Roosevelt himself commented that the sunflower, "was yellow, had a black heart and was only good for feeding parrots."

While making impromptu remarks from the rear platform of his whistle-stopping train at Galion, Ohio on October 16th, 1936, FDR quipped, "I am mighty glad to see you and I want to thank you on behalf of Mrs. Roosevelt for the flowers. They are perfectly beautiful, and there has not been a sunflower aboard the train yet." Meanwhile, in Chicago, enterprising owners of soda fountains offered the "Sunflower Sundae," pioneered by officers of the Soda

Fountain Institute. The sundae consisted of a round dollop of hot fudge in the center, with banana slices radiating outwards and forming the petals. The chocolate ice-cream itself was at the edges of the dish, added almost as an afterthought.

This is one sunflower that I suspect is not represented in even the most advanced Landon collections.



The felt sunflowers behind Landon buttons were so popular, Democrats came out with a felt donkey behind FDR's picture. In this version the donkey faces right. See the left-facing version on page 17.

Landon did not rely entirely on the sunflower to get his message out. To demonstrate his party loyalty, aides arranged to have Landon shake hands with an elephant in New Hampshire. To show his old-fashioned American values, Cleveland Republicans used a covered wagon drawn by four oxen to advertise the Landon candidacy. Some Republicans grumbled, however, that the covered wagon made Landon seem like a candidate from a previous era. In another leap back to the past, Maine Republicans held a torchlight procession one foggy night. Candidate Landon later recalled that the marchers "looked just like ghosts coming in from the fog."

Voters decided not to vote for the candidate of covered wagons, torches, and sunflowers. In fact, Landon's finish in the electoral college (8 votes) stands as an all-time low for a major party candidate. Landon tied with William Howard Taft for this dubious distinction. Landon carried only Maine and Vermont, and topped 45 percent in only two other states, New Hampshire and his native Kansas.

The Republicans in 1936 had a decent candidate and they certainly had the most imaginative buttons. But voters still associated the Republican Party with the great stock market crash of 1929 and President Hoover's subsequent policies. They associated the Democrats with progress over unemployment and with the reopening of the banks. Alfred Landon was more of a sacrificial goat than a viable candidate for president, although it didn't seem obvious during the election campaign.

More than four decades later, Howard Owens (a Democratic candidate for state legislature in Oregon) used the sunflower as his campaign symbol and told a story about them on his website under the title *My First Political Lesson*. "When I was a lad of six, Alf Landon was running for president on the Republican ticket. He was from Kansas, the sunflower state, and he used mammoth sunflowers as his symbol. My parents, poor farmers, were Republicans by tradition and displayed large cardboard cutouts of sunflowers in our windows, front yard, and along the roadside. Landon lost to Franklin Roosevelt. The day after the election a government worker was due at our house who would approve our continuing eligibility for WPA and food commodities (an early form of welfare). My parents hurried around the house taking down all the sunflowers. They figured that since she was a government worker, she worked for Roosevelt and might deny us our much needed benefits."

Landon sunflowers make a great specialty for button collectors. The yellow and brown colors, and the felt and other backings make Landon buttons especially distinctive. Yet Landon buttons also tend to be affordable. Of the 141 Landon buttons listed in volume I of *Hake's Encyclopedia*, only eight of them top \$400, dozens are priced under \$20, and several are under \$5. These are 2004 estimated values for buttons in excellent condition.





There are some nice Landon tabs, die-cut in the shape of sunflowers. There is an interesting array of Landon coattails (most of which did the local candidates no good!). There are nice, colorful enameled pins available at surprisingly low prices. There are interesting varieties of size and color, and such varieties as "left-facing elephant" and "right-facing elephant."

Interestingly, Alf Landon was not the only presidential candidate from Kansas in 1936. Earl Browder of Wichita was the Communist Party candidate for president in 1936 and 1940, although no sunflower items are known for his campaigns.

But Kansas would eventually have its first president; Dwight D. Eisenhower, who grew up in Abilene and was elected the 34th president of the United States in 1952 and reelected in 1956. There are several Eisenhower sunflower items.

The next time Kansas was represented on the national ticket was 1976 when Kansas Senator Robert J. Dole was an unsuccessful vice-presidential candidate as the running mate of Gerald R. Ford. Dole went on to run unsuccessfully for the GOP presidential nomination in 1980 and 1988 but finally won the nomination in 1996, losing that November to President Bill Clinton.



There are several Dole items featuring the sunflower including an interesting 3" Dole-Specter pin put out in 1986 when two native sons of the small town of Russell, Kansas (population 4,342) -- Bob Dole and Arlen Specter -- were on the ballot in their respective states for different U.S. Senate seats. Both won that year.



Bob Dole's wife, Elizabeth

Dole, was Ronald Reagan's secretary of transportation and George H.W. Bush's secretary of labor and is currently the U.S. Senator from North Carolina. This is surely the first time a husband and wife have been elected to the Senate from different states. Elizabeth Dole was a GOP presidential hopeful herself in 2000.

When Bob Dole left his congressional seat in 1968 to move to the Senate, he was succeeded by Republican Congressman Keith Sebelius

who issued the 3" "Keith Cares" pin. Sebelius was succeeded in 1980 by his longtime Chief of Staff, Pat Roberts, who later was elected to the Senate.

Sebelius's daughter-in-law, Kathleen Gilligan Sebelius, is in her second term as Kansas Governor.

Kathleen Sebelius is herself the daughter of John Gilligan, a former Congressman and Governor from Ohio. The 1 1/2" "Sebelius" pin is one of three varieties used by Keith Sebelius in his races for Congress.

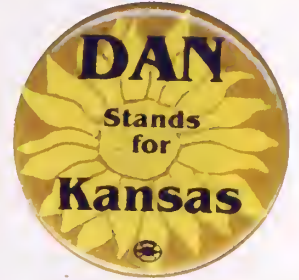




Kansas Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum is the daughter of 1936 GOP presidential candidate Alf Landon. She was elected to the Senate in 1979 and re-elected in 1984 and again in 1990. After leaving the Senate voluntarily, she married former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, himself a hopeful in 1980.

Another Kansas senator issued at least two sunflower items shown with this article. Governor Alf Landon's daughter, Nancy Landon Kassebaum, was elected to the United States Senate from Kansas in 1978, reelected in 1984 and again in 1990. The "I'm a Schuster Booster" item boosts Republican Deryl K. Schuster, who ran for the U.S. Senate in 1978 in the crowded primary won by Kassebaum.

The 1 1/2" "Dan Stands for Kansas" pin is from Democratic Congressman Dan Glickman. After being defeated in the GOP tsunami of 1994, Glickman served as Agriculture Secretary for President Clinton and now heads the Motion Picture Association, where he succeeded Jack Valenti. Glickman himself often marvels about his career as the "kid of a Jewish junk dealer from Wichita, Kansas."



Ross Perot also issued a sunflower button during his independent race for president in 1992.

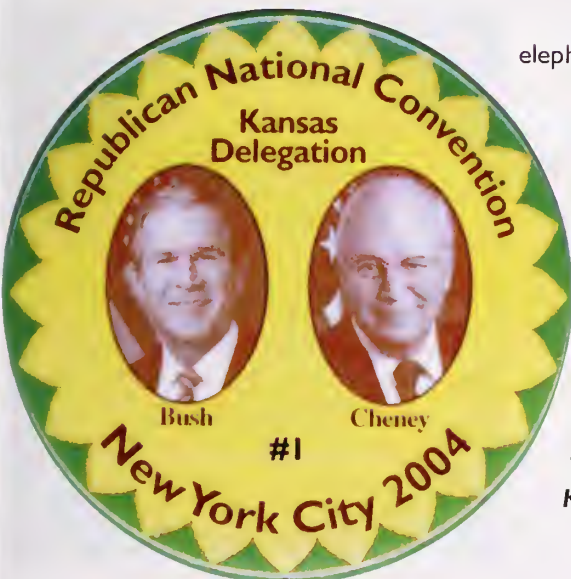
The most recent use of the sunflower as a political icon is not really associated with Kansas. The Green Party has begun to use the sunflower on some of its buttons and other material to promote a healthy environment and boost alternative sources of fuel. In fact, the 2000 Green Party campaign song makes reference to the 1936 Democratic jibe that "sunflowers die in November."

Of the Greens I am proudly a member,
Green Parties are sprouting like weeds.
They say "Sunflowers die in November"
But not without spreading their seeds.
[chorus:] Not without spreading their seeds, etc.

Now politics can disillusion
When nothing is quite what it seems,
But I think that I've found my solution
Surrrrrrrrounded by acres of greens.
[chorus:] Surrounded by acres of greens, etc.

[2000 Green Party song by Skip Mendler]

While the sunflower may not have the symbolic political potency of the elephant or the donkey, it surely must be better for the environment.



The sunflower has moved beyond Kansas to become a symbol of the Green Party.

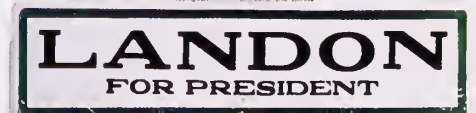
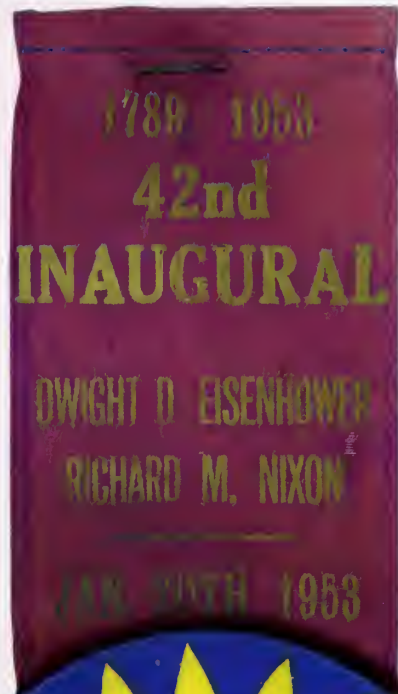
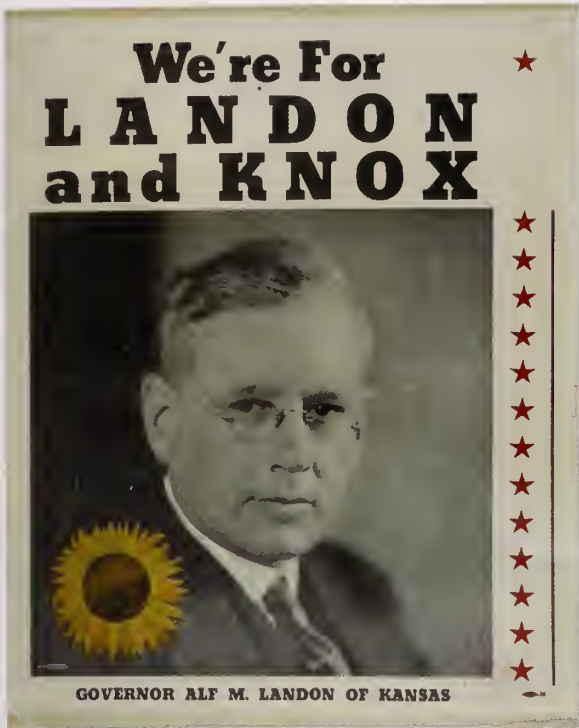




WATCHER
VOTE THE
STRAIGHT
REPUBLICAN
TICKET

17





License attachment

The sunflower proved such a popular symbol that Democrats jumped on the bandwagon, putting out their own sunflower material, many carrying the slogan "You can't eat sunflowers." That isn't exactly true, as sunflower seeds make a nutritious snack. Note the left facing felt donkey with FDR's picture. See the right-facing version on page 11. Items not necessarily the correct size.

WANTED TO BUY!

I have an extensive collection of FDR clocks, lamps and spelter ornamental pieces [see my previous Keynoter articles]. Pictured here are six that I am attempting to track down. If you have one, I'd love to make a serious and tempting offer. Mark S. Furr - APIC#13018 - Phone: 410-867-7301. Email: MARCUS6705@COMCAST.NET. Address: P.O. Box 166, Harwood, Maryland 20776.



One light between twin barrels.

Marked FDR instead of NRA!

Decoration piece w/no lamp.



Prosperity under the blue eagle.



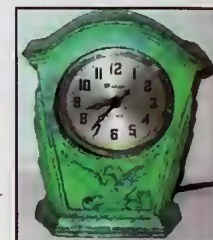
NRA Eagle



Bar scene on bottom.



Lighted bust lamp.



PICTURE THIS!

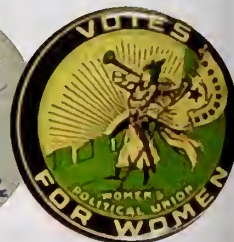
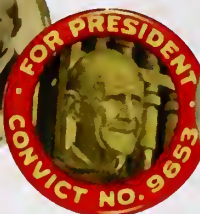
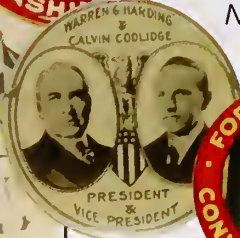
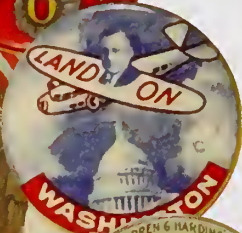
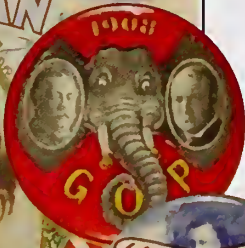
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The Goat Gland Doctor For Governor

By Trent LeDoux



In this day of Governor Terminator and Gov. Jesse (The Body) Ventura, you might think electing unconventional characters to public office is a relatively modern phenomenon. Not so. In fact, my own beloved state of Kansas (home of such luminary politicians as Eisenhower, Landon, Capper, Curtis and Dole) has some interesting

folks in its own political history. One such person was John R. Brinkley, one of the most colorful people ever to run for political office in this great nation. While he was never elected, many historians would agree that the election of 1930 was probably denied him solely because his name was misspelled or incorrectly written by thousands of Kansans. And some of you thought Florida 2000 was a fiasco! Anyway, let's meet this mysterious John Brinkley and learn a little more about the "Goat Gland Doctor" who probably won the election for Governor of Kansas, but didn't.

John R. Brinkley (the "R" is said to be Richard and Romulus, depending where you look) was born on July 8, 1885 in a log cabin in North Caarlaina and raised by his uncle and aunt. He graduated from high school in Tuckasiegee, North Carolina. In 1908, while a Western Union telegrapher in Chicago, he began attending Bennett Medical College. He dropped out before his senior year. Four years later, Brinkley obtained a Tennessee license to practice medicine as an "undergraduate physician." Brinkley then opened a medical office in Greenville, South Carolina. Brinkley was chiefly known for a surgical procedure that he claimed restored lost virility in male patients by implanting goat glands. Initially he advertised in the local daily newspaper, asking, "Are You a Manly Man Full of Vigor?" The suckers came in droves. Brinkley gave them injections directly into the hip at \$25 a shot. This shot was really distilled water. Two months later, Brinkley skipped town, still owing both his landlord and the newspaper.

In June 1913, Brinkley resurfaced in St. Louis, Missouri, where he received an M.D. degree from the National University of Arts and Sciences. Upon graduation, Arkansas licensed him as a physician; a move that persuaded Kansas to license him also. Later he obtained a second M.D. degree from the Eclectic Medical University of Kansas City, Missouri, whose proprietor, Professor D. R. Alexander, once denounced a reporter for an article claiming that Alexander sold medical diplomas for \$200. "That's a deadly insult," he said. "I never sold one for less than \$500."

Brinkley's World War One career was brief. He served one month and five days on duty and one month and three days in hospital, followed by release as unfit. Former Lt. Brinkley finally landed in Milford, Kansas, down to his last \$23. He rented an old drugstore for \$8 a month and began a general practice.

One night, a man came in, a self-described "flat tire" who claimed to be "All in. No pep." Somehow, the subject of goats came up. "You wouldn't have any trouble if you had a pair of those buck glands in you," Brinkley said.

The man's reply: "Well, why don't you put 'em in?"

Brinkley performed the operation in his back room. His procedure involved administering a local anesthetic and placing "the glands of a three week old male goat... upon the non-functioning glands of a man, within twenty minutes of the time they are removed from the goat." Within two weeks, his first patient had "regained his pep." Within a year, the man and his wife had a healthy child, named Billy to honor the goat. Then another man came in, claiming the same problem. Brinkley whetted his scalpel and the second patient reported complete rejuvenation. Thousands would follow, and Brinkley had found his calling. Numerous patients publicly swore the procedure worked. Soon, he was charging \$750 in advance and the patient selected his own goat.





By 1923, Brinkley was also running a radio station; KFKB (Kansas First, Kansas Best). The radio station broadcast weather reports and live country music. Brinkley starred in "Medical Question Box" in which he read letters from listeners

(mostly women) on their ailments and complaints, then prescribed medications over the air.

Despite his affability, Brinkley was quite vain. He stamped everything with his initials (his initials were on his car 17 times). Brinkley maintained he was just a country boy who made good and often came across as likeable to many people, even those who opposed his practices. He enjoyed showing off his wealth, wearing diamond jewelry and buying several cars, most of them covered with his initials. Kansas governors enrolled him in the Kansas Navy (that's right, I said Navy) and on his yacht he wore a uniform illustrating the honor. In fact, his cap and jacket are in the possession of the Kansas Historical Society today.

In 1938, vanity finally overcame common sense. The American Medical Association magazine, *Hygeia*, called him a quack, whereupon Brinkley sued for libel and lost. The AMA then denounced him to the Kansas Board of Medical Registration and Examination, which revoked his medical license for immorality and unprofessional conduct.

Worse yet, the Federal Radio Commission withdrew his broadcasting license after a hearing in June 1930, saying his operations were not serving the public interest. Some argued that Brinkley's candor about sex was his undoing; others noted the politically influential *Kansas City Star's* radio station was losing advertisers to KFKB, stimulating the "Pet Snake" motto on one of his buttons.

Nonetheless, KFKB had made Brinkley famous. He believed his licenses might be regained through political influence. Although only 42 days remained until election day (too late for his name to be printed on the ballot), Brinkley announced his write-in candidacy for governor. As his attorneys had appealed the commission's decision to the federal courts, the actual suspension was delayed until the appeal could be heard so he stayed on the air throughout the campaign. Democrats and Republicans thought him absurd. Not only was his name not on the ballot, his platform promised something for everyone: free school books, free auto tags, lower taxes, better times for the working people, lakes in every county and increased rainfall.

But Brinkley was a great salesman with a knack for anti-establishment rhetoric in a state sliding into the Great Depression. After several hours daily on the radio, he stumped the state in his Cadillac and his private plane. He drew enormous crowds to mass gatherings that mixed elements of a fundamentalist revival meeting with the mood of a state fair.



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In the last days of the campaign, the state attorney general ruled that only ballots bearing precisely the words "J.R. Brinkley" would be counted for the doctor. This quite probably saved Kansas from Brinkley's election. On Election Day 1930, as many as 50,000 ballots bearing variations on his name, such as Dr. Brinkley or John Brinkley, were discarded. Even so, the vote was Democrat Harry Woodring 217,171; Republican Frank Haucke 216,920; and John Brinkley 183,278.

Two years later, in the campaign of 1932, Woodring's Democrat party was divided by factionalism while the Republicans, under the leadership of Alf Landon, remained unified. In addition, John Brinkley got his name on the ballot this time. In other ways his campaign was much better organized but on election day, Landon received 278,581 votes; Governor Woodring 272,944 and Brinkley 244,607.

After his unsuccessful political campaigns in the Sunflower State, Brinkley relocated to Del Rio, Texas,

on the Rio Grande. In the neighboring town of Villa Acuna, Mexico, Brinkley built a transmitter with towers some 300 feet tall. Radio station XER ("The Station Between the Nations") went on the air on October 21, 1931 with 100,000 watts. These stations were known as "border blasters". Eventually the station began using 500,000 watts, then one million watts (by contrast, the most powerful U.S. stations were limited to 50,000 watts).

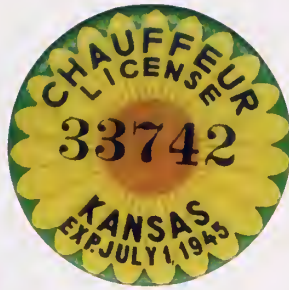
During the late 1930s, Brinkley increasingly blamed his legal troubles on Jewish doctors and began broadcasting anti-Semite such as Father Charles Coughlin and the Reverend Gerald Winrod (called "the Kansas Hitler"). In 1938, while staying at the Waldorf-Astoria, Brinkley met William Dudley Pelley, chief of the pro-Nazi Silver Shirt Legion of America, and gave him \$5000, which was a pretty hefty donation in those days.

In the early days of World War II, Brinkley opened a flight school. Its XER advertisements falsely claimed its students would receive draft deferments. Brinkley died on May 26, 1942, at the age of only 56.

Thus ended one of the most colorful and intriguing political lives of Kansas' history. While we haven't seen many more "goat gland doctors" running for political office lately, we certainly do seem to not have exhausted the supply of "non-traditional" candidates.



Trent LeDoux (APIC #13340) is a rancher in Holton, Kansas who also serves as Legislative Director for the Kansas Senate President. LeDoux is serving his 10th year as Chairman the Jackson County Republican Party, and he is a former 6-year chairman of the 2nd Congressional District GOP. He is an elected member of the Holton School Board and currently serves on the APIC Board of Directors.



The sunflower also appears on plenty of non-political advertising buttons, as shown in these examples from the collection of Trent LeDoux. The simplicity and clarity of the image makes it easy to adapt for a wide range of uses.

Frank Knox for President

William Franklin Knox challenged Landon for the 1936 nomination and wound up as his running mate. Knox had served under Teddy Roosevelt as a member of the Rough Riders and eventually became general manager of William Randolph Hearst's newspapers. In 1940, President Franklin Roosevelt, seeking to create national unity in defense preparations, made Knox Secretary of the Navy.



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Sunflower Coattails

By Robert Rouse

With few exceptions, the men who associated their names with Alf Landon's on political buttons, license plates, and ribbons all shared his fate in the election of 1936. Although in retrospect it would seem to have been wise to ride Landon's coattails only in Vermont and Maine, Landon coattail items appeared in Illinois, New Jersey, Wyoming, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Michigan and Delaware in 1936, almost all featuring local candidates destined to go down in defeat with Landon.

While there are several other Landon coattail items, this article will focus on those featuring the sunflower.

In Massachusetts four known Landon coattail items were issued, featuring the names of Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., John W. Haigis, and Leverett Saltonstall. Lodge defeated Democratic Governor James M. Curley and Union party nominee Thomas C. O'Brien for a seat in the Senate, thus becoming the only known Landon coattail candidate outside of Maine to win in 1936. Haigis lost the Governorship to Democrat Charles F. Hurley and "Salty" Saltonstall, seeking the lieutenant-governorship, went down to the only defeat he would experience in a political career of forty-seven years, the last twenty-two in the U.S. Senate.

A 4" button linked Landon with incumbent Michigan Governor Frank D. Fitzgerald, who lost to Frank Murphy in his 1936 bid for reelection but then rebounded to defeat Murphy in 1938.

Three Republicans challenged Democratic incumbents in Connecticut in 1936 with the aid of sunflower buttons bearing their names without Landon's; but none attracted more than 41 percent of the vote. Arthur Brown lost to incumbent Governor Wilbur Cross, the Yale professor who served four terms in the State House. In the first congressional district (Hartford) Walter Batterson lost to Herman Koppelman, a Russian immigrant who won five of his eight races for Congress. Several states elected a Congressman at Large in the first half of the last century and Francis Pallotti ran for the at-large seat in Connecticut but lost to the incumbent William Citron. Citron and Cross issued FDR coattail buttons for the 1936 race.

The final Landon sunflower coattail item I know of is a bit of a mystery. The "Landon-Cannon-Knox" sunflower button probably was issued in Delaware as part of Harry L. Cannon's unsuccessful race for the governorship against Richard C. McMullen. This button was made by Whitehead and Hoag of Newark, New Jersey, and seems to surface only on the East Coast. There is, however, a remote possibility that it was issued by V.S. Cannon, who lost to Democrat Jack Nichols in Oklahoma's 2nd District in 1936.

Robert Rouse (APIC #1582) was a Professor of Geography and Director of the Transportation Management Program at Elmhurst College in suburban Chicago for 23 years. He began collecting in 1968 and has a special interest in Landon, Dewey and Stevenson, Illinois Governors and US Senators, Chicago Mayors, and America First items. Bob has published over 50 articles in *The Keynoter* and was elected to the APIC Hall of Fame in 1989.



One non-sunflower coattail is for Maine Sen. Wallace White and Gov. Lewis Barrows. Both won. The other supported New Jersey's unsuccessful Senate nominee Warren Barbour.

The Landon/Doutrich button boosted Congressman Isaac H. Doutrich from Pennsylvania

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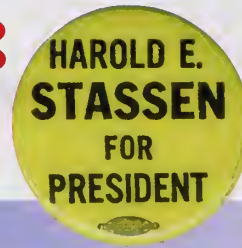
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The Champion Hopeful: Harold Stassen

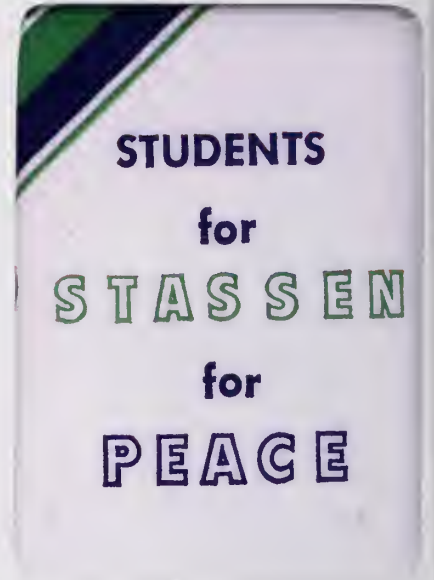
By Jon Curtis



Your author will never see sixty-five again. Every four years there has been a presidential election and for most of them Harold Stassen has been a presidential candidate. It seemed even if he was not a candidate, he was at least playing a major part in the election in some other way. Stassen was born on April 13, 1907 in Dakota County, Minnesota. He graduated from high school at age 15 and from the University of Minnesota at age 20. He became involved in campus politics and was elected class president. Stassen enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps which would play an important role for him later in life. He decided law school should be his next step. He remarkably completed the University of Minnesota Law School program in only two years.

Stassen began his professional career in St. Paul. He and a close friend founded a very successful law firm. He was elected county attorney in 1930 and re-elected in 1934. Winning any election running as a Republican during Franklin D. Roosevelt's first term was a major accomplishment. The Republican Old Guard controlled the state party but the state itself was dominated by an alliance between the Democrats and Minnesota's fabled Farmer-Labor Party known as the D.F.L.

Stassen succeeded in winning the Republican nomination for governor in 1938 and in the fall became known as "The Boy Governor" when he defeated the incumbent Elmer Benson by almost 300,000 votes out of slightly more than a million cast. The new state chief executive was only 31 years old. Nobody has been elected a state governor at a younger age since Stassen (Bill Clinton was a year older when elected Governor of Arkansas in 1978). Two years later Stassen was selected to deliver the keynote address at the Republican National Convention where he also served as the floor manager for Wendell Willkie's successful nomination campaign. No political amateur had successfully captured the Republican nomination until Stassen guided the Willkie forces to victory on the sixth ballot in 1940. Stassen was re-elected to the governorship in the fall of 1940 even though Roosevelt won a third straight victory when FDR defeated the Willkie-McNary ticket. Stassen's triumphant second term was followed yet another re-election victory in 1942.



This button is from Stassen's 1968 presidential race. His early opposition to the Vietnam War gave him some slight traction as a vehicle for protest but that was quickly eclipsed by his fellow Minnesotan, Eugene McCarthy.



A set of official campaign buttons from Stassen's 1964 campaign for president. It was the 1964 campaign in which Stassen first began to be widely seen as losing touch with political reality.



By this time the United States was heavily involved in World War II. The R.O.T.C. trained Stassen resigned his office on April 27, 1943 and became a lieutenant commander in the U. S. Navy. He joined the staff of Admiral William "Bull" Halsey, commander of the Third Fleet. Stassen won promotion to commander and then captain while serving in the Pacific.

Stassen first appears in the presidential sweepstakes in 1944. That year he finished a weak third in the Wisconsin primary to native-son General Douglas MacArthur. On April 11 he defeated eventual Republican nominee Thomas E. Dewey by a margin of 3 to 1 in the Nebraska primary. The Dewey bandwagon finished by crushing Stassen in Oregon in mid-May. Stassen forces dropped out of the presidential contest after Oregon.

Stassen was appointed by President Roosevelt as a delegate to the San Francisco conference that created the United Nations. There Stassen was selected as the most effective delegate at the conference. He opposed the clause that allowed the Big Five Allies of the United States, the Soviet Union, France, China and the United Kingdom a veto power in the Security Council. When the conference ended and the United Nations was established, Stassen returned to the fleet and was in charge of evacuating American POW's back to the United States.

On December 17, 1946 Stassen announced his candidacy for the presidency in the 1948 election, almost two years before the contest. He spent the next year and a half on the campaign trail. It proved to be his best shot at the White House. He traveled over 150,000 miles in the year and a half in a well funded attempt to take the nomination. He had two major challengers. New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey, the 1944 nominee, believed he deserved another chance when it appeared any Republican could defeat incumbent President Harry S. Truman. Ohio Senator Robert A. Taft was the other major challenger. Taft was the darling of the conservative wing of the party taking delight in such titles as "Mr. Republican" and "Mr. Conservative."

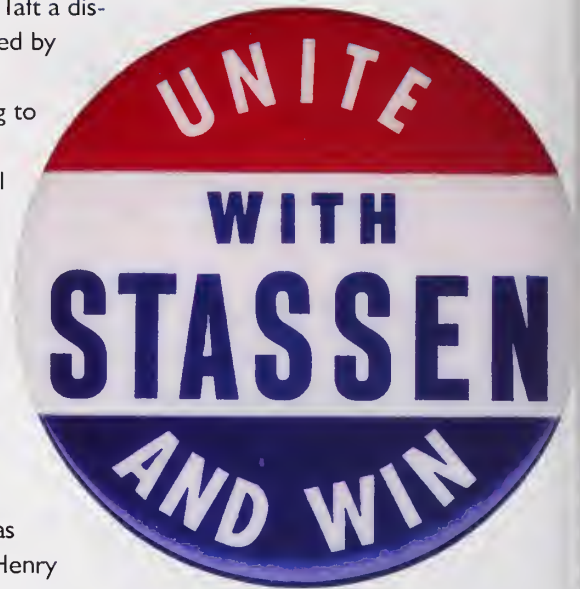
Stassen pulled a political surprise when he won the Wisconsin primary over native-son MacArthur and Dewey, then followed with a victory in Nebraska. For a while he was the perceived front-runner. Stassen then made a critical mistake. He decided to take on Senator Taft in Taft's home state of Ohio. When the smoke had cleared, Taft walked off to the Republican Convention with forty-four of Ohio's vote to Stassen's nine. There is an unwritten rule that a contender doesn't challenge an opponent in the opponent's home state. Then came a head-on clash with Dewey in Oregon. It was Stassen's chance to take out the new front-runner but it was not to be. Stassen faltered in a close race losing to Dewey by 10,000 votes out of 227,000 cast. Stassen refused to capitulate this time and the other challengers decided to stay the course also.

On the first ballot at the convention Dewey received 434 votes with Taft a distant second with 224. Stassen finished third with 157. They were followed by nine others who divided 276 more votes. On the second ballot Dewey increased his total to 515, Taft to 224 and Stassen lost eight votes, slipping to 149. Dewey was only 33 votes short of the nomination. It was obvious Dewey had the nomination secured. All challengers dropped away and all delegates voted for Dewey on the third ballot, convinced that victory over Harry Truman was in the bag. Governor Earl Warren of California was selected as the vice presidential nominee by acclamation even though Arizona delegates had suggested Stassen for the vice presidential nod. Dewey lost unexpectedly to Truman in November and Stassen announced almost immediately that he was going to run again in 1952. In the interim he accepted the position as President of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was hailed for running an enlightened administration.

By late 1951 it was clear that the internationalist wing of the GOP was not lining up to support a Stassen candidacy. Governor Dewey, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., Herbert Brownell and others were busy trying to persuade General Dwight Eisenhower, the commander of NATO, to seek the Republican presidential nomination against isolationist Senator Bob Taft. Stassen was running in several primaries but he did make a trip to Europe to visit with Ike to assure him that Stassen would support his candidacy if he came home to campaign for the nomination. Stassen promised to switch his delegates to Eisenhower at the appropriate time. Stassen finished a poor third in New Hampshire, but a week later won his home state primary in Minnesota with 129,000 votes. However he was embarrassed by Ike's 108,000 write-in votes that came uncomfortably close to his own total.

At the convention it was a battle between the Taft and Eisenhower forces. Eisenhower won the battle over delegates from the South that Taft had tried to capture early. In the glare of television cameras, Taft forces, realizing the whole country was watching, could not "steal" these votes. After the first ballot Eisenhower had 595 votes to Taft's 500. Governor Earl Warren of California finished with 81. Stassen had 20 and MacArthur was on the bottom with 10. Eisenhower was a meager nine votes short of the nomination. Stassen shifted his votes when the balloting was finished as did many others and when the smoke cleared Eisenhower was victorious with 845 votes. There were 280 who stuck with Taft to the bitter end along with 77 who remained with Warren and 4 with MacArthur. The Republican power brokers selected Richard Nixon as the running mate. The "I like Ike" campaign crushed the Democratic ticket of Adlai Stevenson and John Sparkman in the Fall by a margin of 442-89 in the Electoral College.

Eisenhower appointed Stassen as his director of foreign aid programs and subsequently named him his disarmament advisor with cabinet rank. Stassen next made news in 1956. Ike's heart attack raised a question whether Ike would run for a second term. Stassen put his own name forward as a replacement but Ike finally announced he would run again. Then Stassen went to Eisenhower and suggested that Vice President Nixon be dropped from the ticket and replaced with former Governor Christian Herter of Massachusetts. It made news for about a month but, in the end, Stassen wound up giving one of the seconding speeches for Nixon. When Stassen came into conflict with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, an Eisenhower favorite, his resignation was requested.



Anti-Stassen buttons would make a good collection in themselves. The middle button above from 1956 makes rude fun of his name.



Stassen next announced for the Republican nomination for Governor of Pennsylvania, but lost by a 2 to 1 margin in the primary. In 1959 Stassen was the Republican candidate for Mayor of Philadelphia, but again lost by a 2 to 1 margin. Never coy, Stassen announced his presidential candidacy again on January 20, 1964. This was the first time that most Republicans rolled their eyes over his candidacy. He polled slightly more than 1,000 votes in New Hampshire, finishing a poor sixth. He was fifth in Texas and was Goldwater's only significant challenger in Nebraska, but still only registered about 25% of the vote. Two years later he ran for the Republican nomination for Governor of Pennsylvania again. Again he was trounced.

In 1968 he decided to run for the presidency again. He appeared on the New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and Nebraska primary ballots gathering slightly over 31,000 votes out of about 800,000 cast in the three primaries. He spent just under \$100,000 and won one delegate from Minnesota and one from Ohio. Nixon and Agnew won the election by a slim margin over the Democratic team of Hubert Humphrey and Edmund Muskie and the third party candidacy of George Wallace and Curtis LeMay. In 1972 he supported Nixon for re-election. Not to be deterred, he ran again in 1976, but this time he was considered a side show and was given no role in the party. Jimmy Carter defeated Gerald Ford in that election. Two years later he returned to Minnesota and ran for the Republican U. S. Senate nomination but garnered only 13% of the vote. In late 1979 Stassen announced again for the presidency. In the 1980 primaries he received 24,573 votes which represented only 0.2% of the Republican votes cast. Of course, the winner of the election was Ronald Reagan. It seemed like any time there was an election, there was Stassen. In 1982 he ran again for the Republican nomination for governor of Minnesota winning 17,000 votes out of almost 320,000. Reagan was a candidate for re-election in 1984, but again Stassen challenged for the GOP presidential nomination. When the primary season ended, Reagan had about 6.5 million votes and Stassen had 12,749. Two years later Stassen was the Republican candidate for the House of Representatives against Minnesota Congressman Bruce Vento who received more than 75% of the vote. When Reagan's terms ended Stassen felt the calling to run again for the presidency in 1988 against George H. W. Bush. The figures show that 2,682 voters gave him their votes out of 12 million cast in the primaries.

Stassen, although now 85 years old in 1992, still had not given up campaigning as the election of 1992 approached. President George H. W. Bush was the incumbent Republican occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, and a candidate for re-election, but Stassen announced another run for the presidency. He captured a meager 8,099 of the Republican votes out of almost 13 million cast. In 1994 he again ran in the primary for the U. S. Senate nomination in Minnesota, but lost as usual. Although he did not file in 1996, Stassen suggested that the Republican presidential candidate Senator Robert Dole should pick him as his running mate because the 73 year old Dole would look much younger if he had an 89 year old running mate. Harold Stassen died on March 4, 2001.

Stassen was one of the first Republicans to oppose the Vietnam War and he also opposed the first Gulf War. Besides his concern with world peace it should be noted that in 1963 he was selected as President of the American Baptist Convention. In that capacity he joined with the Rev. Martin Luther King in the famous March on Washington. Perhaps we can say that Stassen was a 20th century counterpart to Don Quixote. But when he jostled with windmills, those windmills that he fought so gallantly were the windmills of racial intolerance and man's inhumanity to man through the terrible acts of modern war.

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Goldfield Miners Union Scrip

By Stanley Campbell



The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) issued far more paper items than buttons. That was their business; handing out leaflets, flyers and newspapers in order to overthrow the capitalist system. I enjoy collecting paper as well as buttons and a friend told me of an interesting item for sale in a paper money auction. It was listed as a scrip from the Goldfield mine strike.

"Scrip," according to the *New York Times Everyday Dictionary*, is "a receipt or certificate of entitlement to a share of stock, land, money, etc." Scrip is often used in a wide variety of economic scenarios. Military scrip saved by GIs is probably the best known, followed by Depression scrip, which was used by businesses as small change or payment in lieu of hard-to-come-by cash. In my opinion, scrip used to pay laborers is among the most valuable historically, especially scrip relating to the great strikes during the turn of the last century.

I had the good fortune to purchase that piece of scrip. I'd first wanted it because it has a vignette of a teddy bear in reference to then-President Theodore Roosevelt. I later found that this scrip commemorated one of the most significant labor struggles in our country's history.

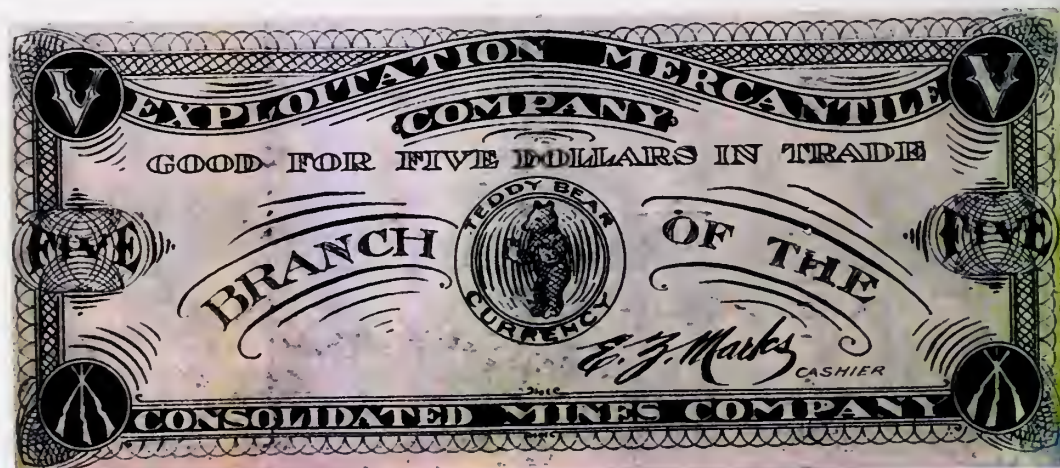
The piece of paper is larger than today's American dollar bill, measuring 7-1/4" x 3-1/4". It's intricately printed, mainly with black ink on a green background. The front shows a teddy bear standing in a circle surrounded by "Teddy Bear Currency." Along the top it says, "Exploitation Mercantile Company, Good for \$5 in trade, Branch of the Consolidated Mines Company." E. Z. Marks signed as the cashier. There are Roman numeral Vs in the upper corners and stacked rifles in the lower corners.

The back has the same Roman numerals in the upper corners, but in the lower corners are two circles, one saying "Card System," the other saying "Company Stores." Across the back, it says, "This is the only kind of money Nevada will see if the Goldfield Miners Union loses the strike against the infamous scrip system." There are also five circles along the back, each one having a different saying: (1) In Gold We Trust. (2) Miners dig gold. (3) Shoot down wages, shoot up prices. (4) Mine operators pay scrip. (5) Our banks do bust.

The scrip is quite worn and folded, looking as if it were kept in a wallet for a long time. I did a little research on the Internet and, according to some histories, the Goldfield, Nevada miners' strike of 1906-07 was one of the most important actions of the Industrial Workers of the World. The IWW (or "Wobblies," as they came to be known) was a revolutionary industrial union organized in Chicago in 1905 by delegates from the Western Federation of Mines, which formed the nucleus of the IWW, joined by 42 other labor organizations. Famous leaders included Eugene V. Debs, William D. "Big Bill" Haywood, and Daniel DeLeon.

The aim of the IWW was to unite all skilled and unskilled workers to overthrow capitalism and build a socialist society. It used direct action, propaganda, the boycott and strikes. It was opposed to sabotage, arbitration, collective bargaining, and to any political affiliation. The organization spread to Canada and Australia, but its main activities were in the USA, especially among the lumber camps of the Northwest, dockworkers, wheat farmers of the prairie states, and in textile and mining areas.

Of the 150 strikes conducted by the IWW, the most notable occurred at Goldfield, Nevada. There were other famous strikes at Lawrence, Mass. (textile workers, 1912); Patterson, N.J. (silk workers, 1913); the Mesabi Range in Minnesota (1916)



and a general strike in Seattle, Wash. (1919). The IWW opposed US involvement in World War I and lost a lot of influence after that war.

For many labor activists, Goldfield was the union stronghold where "the one big union" could create a workers' commonwealth, but mine owners had their own vision of what Goldfield would look like.

In 1902, gold was discovered in the hills near Tonopah, Nevada. In 1903, only 368 people lived in the new town of Goldfield. By 1908, Goldfield was Nevada's largest city with more than 25,000 inhabitants. With the influx of miners came the labor unions. The Western Federation of Miners (WFM), the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and the IWW all vied for power in the region. Unions were able to control wages and working hours during the early years but, in November 1906, the Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company was incorporated by owners George Wingfield and U.S. Senator George Nixon, signaling the beginning of local monopoly control.

But the unions also consolidated; the relatively conservative WFM and the radical IWW joined forces. The more conservative members wanted to bargain within the existing business system, while the firebrands focused on organizing all workers in the town, not just miners. Heated debates often arose.

In 1907, a financial panic hit the country. Bank failures led to the Consolidated Miners Company decision to pay the miners in scrip without any guarantees of future monetary redemption. Scrip had been used intermittently in the mining industry, where workers were paid paper vouchers sometimes redeemable for cash, but most of the time usable only in company and participating stores. The unions themselves used vouchers or slips especially for striking miners.

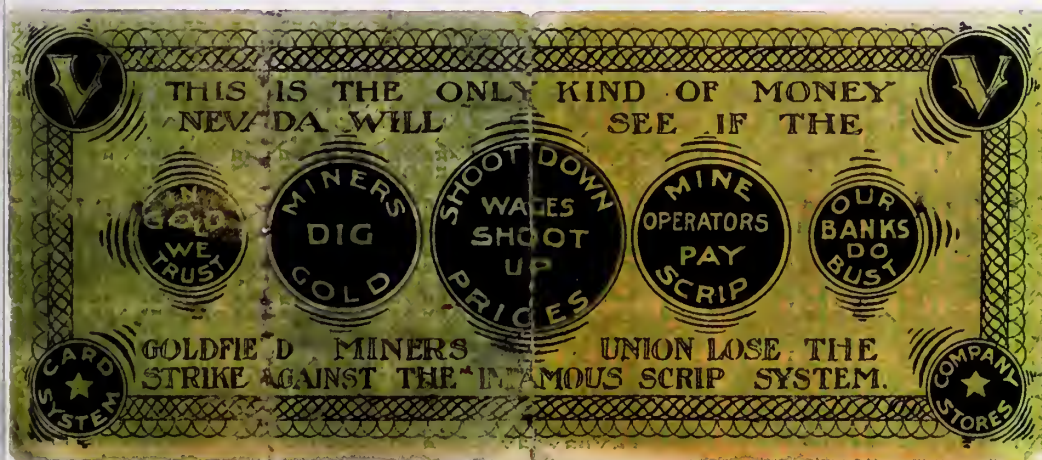
The miners decided to strike; production was at a standstill. The mine owners sent a coded telegram to Governor "Honest John" Sparks, who then wired President Roosevelt that "domestic violence and unlawful corporations" existed in Goldfield. Roosevelt immediately sent three companies of infantry, catching the miners by surprise (hence the reference to "teddy bear currency" and the stacked rifles on the union scrip). With the military in place, mine operators reduced wages and established a card system, illegal by Nevada law, and requiring workers to swear they were not union members. Most miners refused to return to work.

Wingfield and other operators recruited "scab" labor from surrounding states. The tactic proved successful during that depression era, and the WFM/IWW Local was devastated. Later, an investigating committee found the troops were called in without warrant, but the damage had been done.

Governor Sparks lost credibility with President Roosevelt. Teddy believed he'd been duped. Some say that Governor Sparks died while in office because of the strike. Governor Sparks had enjoyed the support of organized labor, particularly among the railroad brotherhoods and craft unions in northern Nevada, but his decision to side with the mine owners angered many supporters and likely contributed to the decline of his health.

Goldfield is the county seat of Esmeralda County, located northwest of Las Vegas, between Tonopah and Beatty along US Highway 95 near the Nellis Air Force Range and the California state line. Today you can still visit a remnant of the town, which has become a popular tourist attraction.

I believe the IWW issued this scrip after federal troops arrived but before the strike collapsed. I am happy to have it in my collection.



The TR button pictured above is related to an earlier coal strike. Made of a dark black material reminiscent of coal, it reads "The Trust Breaker." Although progressive for his era, TR did intervene in several strikes, earning enmity from many union members.

FDR Clocks, part VII

The Manuel L. Quezon “Roosevelt Clock”

By Tom Tedford

A couple of years ago I received a call from an APIC friend informing me that he had found an “unusual Roosevelt clock” in a nearby antique mall. He described it as a variation of the “At the Wheel for a New Deal” FDR clock that is often offered for sale at APIC shows, the difference being that the slogan on the base of this clock read “At the Wheel of a New Nation.” Also, the clock had the name “Quezon” and an unusual emblem on it. My friend quoted the mall’s price and—because of the unusual slogan and other unique features described to me—I agreed to buy the item sight unseen (I also offered a finder’s fee, and agreed to pay all shipping costs). A few days later the UPS guy delivered the clock to my door.

As I began to examine my “find,” the feature that jumped out at me was the name “QUEZON” above the slogan on the base. I immediately realized that this was not a “Roosevelt clock” after all, but one that recognized someone named “Quezon.” I

promptly checked the encyclopedia where I was reminded that Manuel L. Quezon was the first presi-

dent of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, and that he was elected to that office in 1935 (during the “golden age” of metal FDR clocks). I found several pictures of Manuel L. Quezon online, and noted that the face of the figure on the clock matched the pictures that I found (Figures 1 and 2). Now I wanted to learn more about the man who was honored by this unique political clock.

Early in his life Manuel L. Quezon (1878-1944) joined the Philippine struggle for independence from the United States, participating for a time in the insurgency led by Emilio Aguinaldo. After Aguinaldo surrendered to American authorities in 1901, Quezon studied law, obtaining his law degree and practiced law for several years. During this time he became convinced that independence for the Philippines could best be achieved through cooperation with the United States. In 1909 he was appointed resident commissioner for the Philippines, a position that entitled him to speak (but not to vote) in the U.S. House of Representatives. While holding this office, he spoke often in favor of independence and was helpful in the passage of the Jones Act of 1916 which pledged independence without setting a specific date.

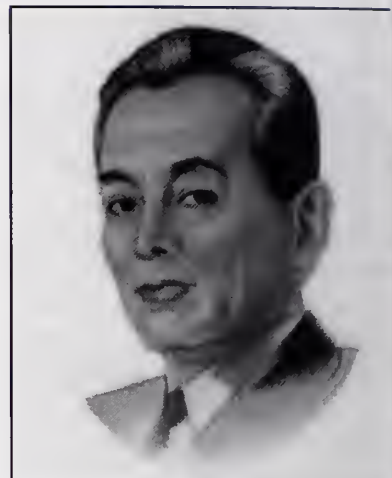


Figure 1: Manuel Quezon, President of the Philippines (1935-1944).



This Quezon clock is clearly inspired by similar clocks created to honor President Franklin Roosevelt.

Quezon returned to the Philippines in 1916 where he was elected to the newly-formed Philippine Senate, eventually becoming the leader of the Nacionalista Party. He was a strong supporter of the Tydings-McDuffie Act of 1934 which established the Philippine Commonwealth and promised independence in 1946. In September of 1935 Quezon was elected the first president of the new Commonwealth, an office to which he was reelected in 1941. Following the Japanese invasion and occupation of the Philippines, Quezon came to the United States where he formed a government in exile. He died in the United States in 1944, two years before his country achieved its independence. To this day Quezon is greatly honored by the people of the Republic of the Philippines who think of him in much the same way that we think of George Washington. Quezon City, Quezon Province, and Quezon University are named for him.

As is obvious, the Quezon clock is based on the design for the FDR "At the Wheel" clock. However, some interesting facts and features should be noted:



Above; Figure 3. Below: Figure 4.



1. To begin with, the clocks were made by different companies. The original version featuring FDR "At the Wheel" was made by the Gibraltar Electric Clock Company of Jersey City, N.J., whereas the Quezon version was made by the United Electric Clock Corporation of New York. Obviously, someone at United was "inspired" by the work of the artists at Gibraltar! (For more on the political clocks made by United and Gibraltar, see the *Keynoter* issues for Summer and Fall 2002.) There is a slight difference in height in the two pieces, the Quezon being 13 inches tall, whereas the FDR is 13 1/2 tall (Figure 3).

2. An interesting feature of the Quezon clock is the small representation of the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of the Philippines that is profiled beneath the face of the clock and immediately above the name "Quezon" (Figure 4). This symbol was approved by the Philippine Legislature in 1935. On the clock the seal is colored in gold and red. The eagle at the top of the seal is the American eagle, but it is not an NRA symbol for FDR's National Recovery Administration. A new design for the official seal was approved by the Congress of the Philippines in 1946 when the country gained its independence. Thus, the Great Seal of the Philippine Republic is different from the one for the Commonwealth that appears on the Quezon clock.

Like other collectors of political items, I enjoy finding previously unknown items that fit my collection—and the Quezon "Roosevelt clock" is just such a find. Which leads me to a final point: I once saw a photograph of a lamp version of the FDR "At the Wheel" clock; the photo showed the lamp fixture molded into the case behind the clock and coming up in back immediately to the right of the Roosevelt figure. I am still looking for that one!

Kennedy versus Nixon: It Began in 1946

By Harvey Goldberg

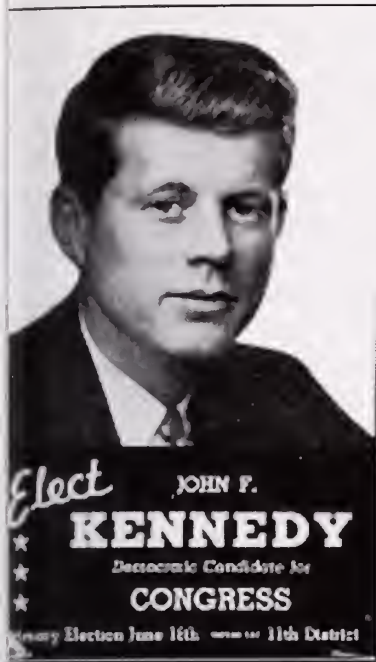
Early on the similarities between John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon were striking; maybe even more so than the differences. Both were World War II veterans, both having served in the U.S. Navy. Both began their Naval training close together in New England: Nixon at Quonset Point, Rhode Island and Kennedy at Melville, Rhode Island.

Lieutenant Commander Nixon first served at a Naval Aviation base in Iowa and was later shipped out to the South Pacific Combat Air Transport Command at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. Nixon became very good at poker, saying later "that was one thing I truly enjoyed learning". Lieutenant Kennedy, after his training, was assigned to a PT-boat squadron in Panama, later being transferred to Tulagi Island in the Solomons - less than 100 miles from Nixon's location. It was from this base that Kennedy's PT-109 was sunk by a Japanese destroyer. He was released from the service in March 1945 on physical disability. Nixon was released from active duty in March 1946.

Jack Kennedy began his campaign for Congress as a 'replacement' for his brother Joe, Jr., who had been killed during the war. He was bankrolled by his father's fortune. Whether Joe Kennedy, Sr. bought his son's first election has been debated back and forth to no avail. What young Jack did show was wit, charm, a smooth delivery, and charisma. He called himself a 'fighting conservative'. Kennedy appeared on the cover of the September, 1946 *PIC Magazine* as the poster boy for the new youth in politics trend. Just as a sidebar, John Kennedy, running in the Democratic Bastion of Massachusetts, had a private contempt for the economic policies of FDR's New Deal - perhaps because of his father's differences with the late President. Nonetheless, these comments remained private in Kennedy's personal diary.

Richard Nixon was invited to run for Congress from California by Herman Perry, a prominent banker and longtime family friend, part of the "Committee of 100" businessmen from Los Angeles. The Candidate and Fact Finding Committee of the 12th Congressional District selected Nixon from four potential candidates. Nixon pledged himself to 'practical liberalism', campaigning against the New Deal. Wearing his uniform when he campaigned, he told voters that "those of us who served in the foxholes will not be satisfied with a dole or government handout." He began his campaign on a \$10,000.00 war chest from his poker winnings during the war, along with \$3,000.00 that his wife Pat gave him from the sale of a piece of land.





Kennedy won his nomination with twice as many votes as his nearest opponent, and won the November 5, 1946 election with 73% of the vote. Nixon was given the nomination with the support of the "Committee of 100" and other groups in Southern California. His attacks on his opponent, Democrat H. Jerry Voorhis, included false statements about the incumbent's relationship with labor, and a slogan "Vote against New Deal Communism - Vote Republican - Vote American - Vote Nixon". He won in an upset with 53% of the vote. Oddly, the next day's *Los Angeles Times* carried the story of Nixon's win on page 2 while the front page was emblazoned with the headline "Kennedy a Congress Winner". This subtle insult from his home state may well have been the first incident on the road to the eventual enmity between the two.



But they started out as friends. The two young Congressmen, part of the "Class of 1946", had offices directly across the hall from one another: Nixon in Room 361, Kennedy in 362. Even as the 1960 campaign year approached some fourteen years later, Kennedy was reported as saying that if the Democrats did not nominate him, he would vote for [then] Vice President Nixon. His father even told Nixon in person, "Dick, if my boy can't make it, I'm for you."



When most people think of Kennedy vs. Nixon, they think of the Presidential Debates of 1960. But their first debate actually took place shortly after they were both sworn in as members of the 80th Congress. In April, 1947, they debated the Taft-Hartley Bill in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, both selected by their respective parties for this appearance, one of many given to Congressional newcomers so that the veteran Representatives didn't have to do them. Both spoke well; both impressed the steel-town audience. One person noted that "they (Kennedy & Nixon) appeared to be genuinely friendly - toward us and toward each other." But both had ambitions for higher office.



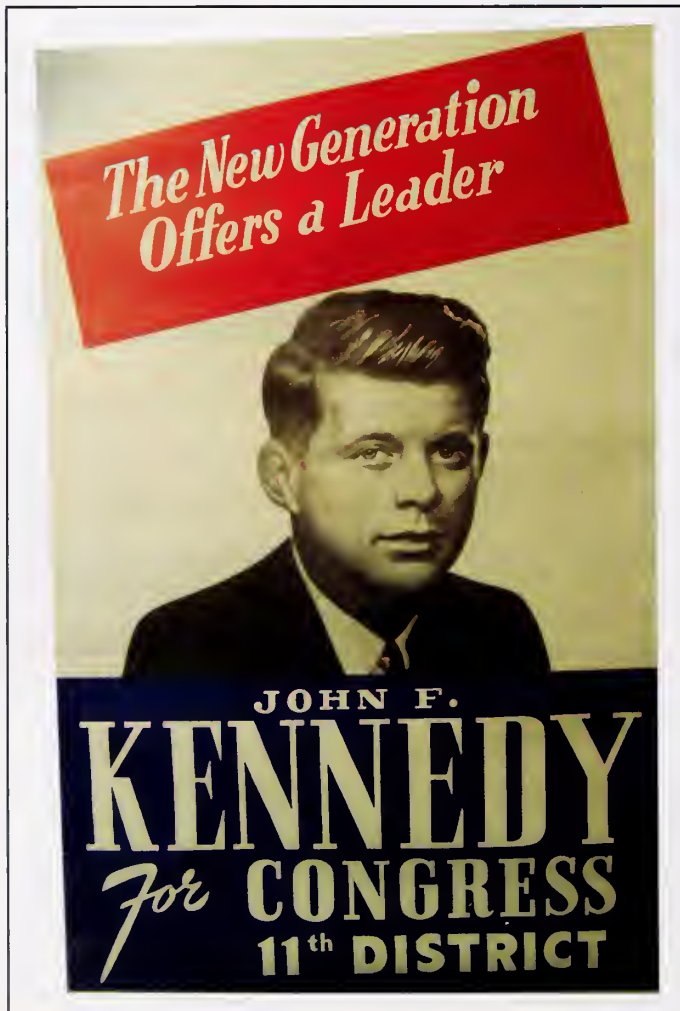
The 1946 election had been a Republican sweep in many states with the GOP gaining 55 House seats and 12 Senate seats which gave them control of the House & Senate for the first time since 1928. Kennedy was one of the few who survived the onslaught. Shortly after the election, Time Magazine pictured some of the Congressional newcomers, offering the magazine's opinions:

"RICHARD MILHOUSE NIXON - a Quaker attorney who turned a supposedly 'hopeless' California grass-roots campaign into an upset victory over the high-powered 5-term Democratic incumbent, Jerry Voorhis. To beat Voorhis, ex-Navy lieutenant Commander Nixon, 33, passed out some 25,000 white plastic thimbles labeled: "Elect Nixon and needle the P.A.C." He (Nixon) plugged hard for veterans' housing, end of controls, a bi-partisan foreign policy, and the theme of 'practical liberalism'.

"JOHN F. KENNEDY, 29, boyish and raw-boned, the Harvard-bred son of ex-U.S. Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy. To win the Democratic primary in Massachusetts' 11th District, which has rarely sent a Republican to Congress, ex-PT boat command Kennedy made 450 speeches, plumped first for international issues, then switched to such local matters as the restoration of Boston's port and the encouragement of New England industries. One of his biggest jobs: to convince 37 nationalities in some of Boston's grimmest slums that he was no Fauntleroy."

The 80th Congress (Jan. 3 - Dec. 19, 1947 & Jan. 6, - Dec. 31, 1948) was dubbed "The Do Nothing Congress" by President Harry S. Truman, who called an extra session in November 1947 to take action on the housing shortage - to no avail. He also called another special session in July 1948, but again according to HST, "That Congress never did anything the whole time it was in session". He warned voters, "and if you people stay home from the polls this time like you did in 1946, you'll get just what you deserve". In reality, however, this Congress did accomplish a great deal.

When Nixon ran for the Senate in 1950, Kennedy brought a \$1,000.00 campaign contribution from his father to Nixon's office. When selected as Eisenhower's running mate in 1952, Kennedy cheerfully wrote him, "I was always convinced that you would move ahead to the top". When Kennedy had back surgery in 1954, the Vice President stopped by Kennedy's office regularly to check on his progress. Kennedy's wife wrote that "There is no one my husband admires more", and when an erroneous report put Kennedy near death, Nixon prayed openly for his friend's well-being. At one time Congressman Nixon is said to have mentioned that "He liked Kennedy, wanted to be like him, and very much wanted Kennedy to like him".



The 1946 election saw many returning veterans jumping into politics and unseating the old guard that had stayed home in public office during the war. JFK was seen as a prime example of this phenomenon.

The Nixon-Kennedy relationship was still warm and friendly in 1952 after RMN was elected Vice President and JFK won a seat in the Senate. However, it changed when Kennedy announced his candidacy for president in 1959. Winning the Democratic nomination would pit him against his former colleague in the House of Representatives. The pressure of this head-to-head campaign ended their friendship. Nixon, who had always taken their rapport for granted, was shocked at the change in Kennedy from the very start of the 1960 campaign. It left him with a feeling of betrayal and much bitterness toward the Kennedys, in spite of the fact that the two had been friends and had identified with each other on many issues. Even JFK's assassination in 1963 did not quell these feelings. It was this bitterness and distrust - and fear of a 'New Camelot' with Ted Kennedy in 1972 - that may have led to Watergate

The 1946 Nixon campaign did not produce any buttons. There was little to spend on advertising, and the only mass-produced give-away item was a plastic thimble with the message "NIXON FOR CONGRESS: Put the Needle in the P.A.C." Nixon remembered years later that "in those days you gave out fingernail files and blotters and other things - little gimmicks, you know, to voters. My campaign manager, Harrison McCall, came in one day and showed me a thimble. And so we wrote on there to Vote for Nixon and put the needle to the Political Action Committee. I thought it was a foolish expense, but it was the best we ever made. It became the symbol of that campaign..." In addition, there were paper items - brochures, fliers, and pamphlets that were distributed throughout California's 12TH Congressional District, along with many newspaper advertisements.

The Kennedy for Congress campaign also produced few campaign items. More than Nixon had, but still relatively few. We know of six different 1946 JFK for Congress items: two buttons, a poll card, poster, flier, and one ribbon.

Harvey Goldberg (APIC #3158) is a retired educator who has been collecting for nearly four decades. Long active in the APIC, he serves as editor of the APIC Newsletter, National Secretary of the APIC and a member of the APIC Board of Directors. At the 2006 APIC National Convention, he was awarded the Joseph M. Jacobs Award for "a lifetime of unparalleled achievement, leadership by deed and example, dedication and service" to the APIC.



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YOUR VETERAN CANDIDATE

Desk Nixon is a serious, energetic man with a high purpose in life to serve his fellow man. He is a trained scholar, a natural leader and a combat war veteran. He has acquired the "bummin touch" the hard way by working his way through college and law school by sleeping in foxholes, sweating out air raids by returning from war confronted with the necessity of "starting all over again."

There is in Richard Nixon's background much that is typical of the country's western American. There are the parents from the mid-west, the father who has been street car motorman, oil field worker, citrus rancher, grocer. There is the solid heritage of the Quaker faith; the family tradition of Work—and Service.

The effects of this background show in Richard Nixon. He has worked in a fruit packing house, in stores, as a gas station attendant. He has made an outstanding success of his law practice. He played college football ("not too successfully," he says); maintains an intensive interest in sports.

Of course, the No. 1 Nixon-for-Congress enthusiasts are Mrs. Richard Nixon, born Patricia Ryan on St. Patrick's Day, and six-month-old baby daughter Pat. Mrs. Nixon is a public servant in her own right, having worked for the government as an economist while her husband was fighting for his country in the South Pacific. Like so many other young "war couples," the Nixons resumed civilian life on a financial foundation comprised solely of War Bonds purchased from the savings of the working wife and sailor husband.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nixon have been very busy this year. Individually or jointly, they have (1) been looking for a place to live; (2) practiced law; (3) been taking care of their little girl; (4) been active in veterans' affairs, particularly those relating to housing for Whittier College veterans-students and their families; (5) been looking for a place to live again; and (6) they have been campaigning to ELECT RICHARD M. NIXON TO CONGRESS.

For New, Progressive, Representation in Congress

VOTE FOR
RICHARD M. NIXON
ON NOVEMBER 5



MR. AND MRS. RICHARD M. NIXON AND PATRICIA

"I pledge myself to serve you faithfully.

To act in the best interests of all of you.

To work for the re-education of the Stranded Students of America as a land of opportunity for your children and mine.

To stand with all my power for amendments of foreign laws upon the American way of life.

To preserve our sacred heritage, in the name of my father and your land and our ideal that these might endure.

To devote my full energies to service for you while enjoying representation of you.

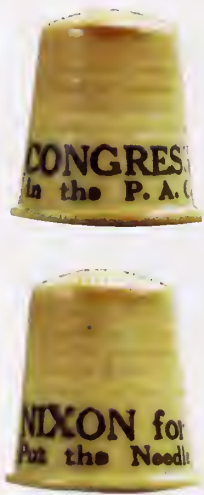
To remain always humble in the knowledge of your trust in me.

Richard M. Nixon

ELECT

RICHARD M. NIXON
WORLD WAR II VETERAN
YOUR CONGRESSMAN

Note how Nixon's status as a returning veteran is played up on this brochure. The cover lists "World War II Veteran" right under his name and the first piece of text is headlined "Your Veteran Candidate." The text relates that his experience came from "working his way through college and law school; by sleeping in foxholes, sweating out air raids; by returning from war confronted with the necessity of 'starting all over again.'" By implication, his opponent stayed safely at home.



Richard Nixon on War: "The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word 'crisis.' One brush stroke stands for danger; the other for opportunity. In a crisis, be aware of the danger - but recognize the opportunity."

AMERICA NEEDS NEW LEADERSHIP NOW

FOR WHAT DOES NIXON STAND?

THE BASIC ISSUE

ADQUATE HOUSING FOR ALL... "The failure of the administration's emergency housing program is a national disgrace. I advocate removal from power of the social housers responsible for this fiasco and their replacement by men who will work in cooperation with the home building industry instead of obstructing it. I favor greater emphasis upon rental construction; the present policy virtually forces veterans and others to build or buy at exorbitant, inflated prices due to restrictions imposed upon rental construction." Richard M. Nixon

LOWER TAXES... "The time has come to relieve the over-burdened taxpayer, particularly in the lower income brackets, through reduced federal expenditures, and lower tax rates." Richard M. Nixon

REALISTIC FOREIGN POLICY... "I have a vivid, participating knowledge of the horrors of war and, as a consequence, will work unceasingly for international cooperation. It would be foolhardy, however, under present world conditions, to disclose America's atomic energy secrets to my nation. We need new leadership which will deal more courageously, more consistently, and above all more realistically with the type of aggressive diplomacy that is being employed by Russia." Richard M. Nixon

VETERANS' RIGHTS... "The rights that have been granted to veterans are so bound up in red tape that they are almost completely ineffective. I shall leave no stone unturned in seeing that the legitimate rights of veterans become available to them in fact, not just in theory." Richard M. Nixon

FULL PRODUCTION—LOWER PRICES... "Fundamentally, the only way to win the battle of inflation is to secure the beachhead of full production. That will be the primary responsibility of the new Congress." Richard M. Nixon

FREEDOM FOR THE FARMER... "The farmer has suffered too long and out of proportion to other groups under governmental regulations. The time has come for the farmer himself to be consulted in the solution of his problems." Richard M. Nixon

A NEW LABOR POLICY... "Probably the greatest single failure of the present administration has been its mishandling of labor-management disputes. We must adopt a new labor policy based on the principle that no leader of either management or labor shall have uncontrolled power to deprive the American people of the basic necessities of life." Richard M. Nixon

RICHARD M. NIXON AND FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES

A VOTE FOR NIXON IS A VOTE

For	... Putting the government back to work for the people;	Against	... Keeping the people at work for the government;
	... Adequate housing, maximum employment, high standards of health and equal opportunity for all;		... Socialization of free American institutions;
	... Practical, progressive government working with and through private enterprise;		... Governmental waste and extravagance;
	... impartial representation for all, with no favoritism for any faction, pressure group, special interest or individual.		... Cynical disregard of veterans' rights;
			... Protection of war profiteers;
			... The PAC (Political Action Committee), its Communist principles and its gigantic slush fund.

A VOTE FOR NIXON IS A VOTE FOR A CHANGE

WHO IS RICHARD M. NIXON?

NATIVE SON... Born at Yorba Linda, California, January 9, 1913.

EDUCATION... Graduate Whittier High School, Whittier College, Duke University School of Law. Specialized in Government and History, Constitutional and Administrative Law. Student Body president, college and law school; worked his way through school.

PUBLIC SERVICE... Deputy City Attorney of Whittier; government legal counsel in Washington, D. C., specializing in simplification of complicated wartime regulations.

COMMUNITY LEADER... Member, Whittier College Board of Trustees; President, Whittier College Alumni Association, 1939; President, Duke University Alumni Association of California, 1940; President, Whittier 20-30 Club, 1939.

EXPERIENCED ATTORNEY... Penetrated law in Whittier since 1937.

WORLD WAR II VETERAN... Served three and one-half years in United States Navy; awarded citation for meritorious performance of duty in combat operations at Bougainville and Green Islands; commended by Secretary of Navy for effective administrative service after V-J Day.

CHURCHMAN... Lifelong member of Friends (Quaker) Church.

NOMINEE FOR CONGRESS... Won Republican nomination for Congress on June 4 with the largest primary vote cast for a Republican candidate in ten years.

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VOTE NOVEMBER 5

This rare and handsome 11" ribbon from 1848 not only boosts the winning Whig ticket of Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore, it also includes the Pennsylvania Governor William Freame Johnston. Johnston defeated Democratic candidate Morris Longstreth by just 297 votes, the closest gubernatorial margin in state history.



The American Party of 1876

By Steve Baxley

Most Americans are politically inactive and unconcerned about issues or the electoral process. Sometimes, however, a single issue makes docile citizens vigorous and enthusiastic political campaigners. Angered by the major political parties' indifference to their favorite issue, they form a third party to fight for their cause. In 1832, the Anti-Masonic Party became the first American third party to field national candidates based on a single issue, anti-masonry.

The American Party (Know Nothing Party) of 1856 based its party on limiting foreign immigration, but the American Party of 1876 emphasized anti-masonry. Capt. William Morgan published an exposé of Freemasonry in 1826, and accounts published after his death claimed that he was abducted by incensed Lodge members and drowned in the Niagara River in New York for his exposé. Masons were barred from churches and many local groups organized anti-masonry organizations. In 1832, the Antimasonry Party became the first national political party to hold a nominating convention. They nominated William Wirt for President and Amos Ellmaker for Vice President. The Party was dead by 1836, as most antimasons had joined with the National Republican Party to form the Whig Party. Preceding the Know Nothings, the National Republican Party wanted to restrict foreign immigration and was anti-Catholic.

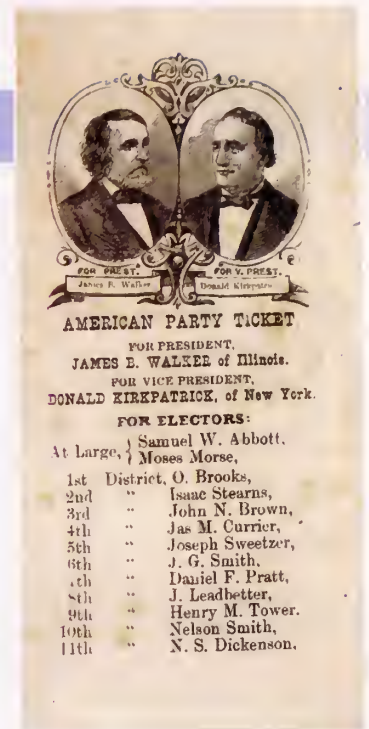
According to the *Cyclopedia of Political Science, Political Economy, and the Political History of the United States by the Best American and European Writers* (1899), the National Christian Association was an organization formed in 1868 to fight freemasonry. The leader of the National Christian Association was Jonathan Blanchard, president of Wheaton College in Illinois. The *Christian Cynosure*, the association's newspaper, published articles criticizing oath-bound secret lodges as corrupt, undemocratic organizations with allegiance to a government other than the United States.

The National Christian Association began organizing a political party at the adjournment of their national convention at Oberlin, Ohio, in 1872. In 1874, the association completed the political organization and named it the American Party at a convention in Syracuse, New York. On June 9, 1875, the new party adopted a platform that demanded recognition of the Sabbath, the introduction of the Bible into public schools, prohibition of the sale of liquors, the withdrawal of the charters of secret societies, and legislative prohibition of their oaths, arbitration of international disputes, the restriction of land monopolies, resumption of specie payment, justice to the Indians, and a direct popular vote for President and Vice-President. It was the single issue of anti-masonry that created the new party, but the party expanded its platform to appeal to a wider circle of potential voters.

The American Party nominated James Barr Walker of Illinois for President and William Kirkpatrick of Tennessee. According to the Dictionary of American Biography, James Barr Walker, was born on July 29, 1805, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As a young man, Walker worked as a printer, read law, and graduated from Western Reserve College in 1831. From 1859 to 1865, Walker was a lecturer at Chicago Theological Seminary. He served one session in the Michigan Senate in 1865. By 1870, he was professor of intellectual and moral philosophy at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. He was also the pastor of a Congregational Church there. *The Bible in School. ...Designed to Prove that the Bible is a Necessary Means in the Moral Education of Men, as Members of Society and Citizens of a Free State*, a book by Walker published in 1876, illustrates why the American Party found him a suitable candidate.

In 1884, the party renamed itself the American Prohibition Party, not to be confused with the National Prohibition Party that nominated John P. St. John for President. The party's platform was very similar to the American Party platform of 1876. The American Prohibition Party nominated Samuel Clarke Pomeroy (Kansas) for President and John A. Conant (Connecticut) for Vice President. Pomeroy withdrew in favor of John P. St. John.

The only known political campaign item from this small third party is an electoral ticket. Before the secret ballot, electoral tickets were printed in party newspapers and placed in ballot boxes by voters. Collectors are fortunate that a few of these rare paper items have survived to show us what these elusive candidates looked like.



I Am For Playgrounds

By Steve Baxley

I AM FOR PLAYGROUNDS, the small celluloid button picturing William Howard Taft declares. It is a rather safe statement, something one might expect to hear at the local ladies club rather than at a fiery political campaign rally.

In the 1890s, settlement houses and civic groups began opening play lots where children could play within urban areas. Many women involved in the women's suffrage movement also became involved in the Mother's and Children's Movement, which tried to influence state and local legislators to pass legislation protecting women and child laborers and create schools, kindergartens, and playgrounds to keep children off the street. Though these women could not vote, they were very successful in influencing state and local government officials in achieving these goals. By 1905, many of the larger cities were providing appropriations for the maintenance of playgrounds.

The Playground Association of America (later the National Recreation Association) was founded in 1906. Groups like the Playground Association saw parks as having great social significance and started a movement for better recreation facilities in city parks across the country. The third annual congress of the Playground Association of America met on May 10, 1909, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. President Taft did not attend the convention, but thought enough of their work to write a personal letter to the convention. "I do not know anything which will contribute more to the strength and morality of that generation of boys and girls compelled to remain part of the urban populations in this country than the institution in their cities of playgrounds where their hours of leisure can be occupied by rational and healthful exercise," he wrote. He then wrote that playgrounds have two advantages: (1) they prevent idleness and confinement in the narrow space of the city that bring about pernicious occupations and bad habits such as gambling, drinking and other forms of vice; and (2) they provide an opportunity for play that improves health, develops the muscles, expands the lungs, and teaches the moral lessons of attention, self-restraint, courage, and patient effort. He ended his letter with the following admonition: "I hope that your present convention may be a success and that the work which you have begun may go on until no city in this country is without suitable playgrounds for the children of those who but for such city assistance in this regard would be without them."

In his Second Annual Message to Congress on December 6, 1910, President Taft briefly mentioned the issue of providing appropriations for playgrounds for the District of Columbia.

"Washington is the capital of the nation and its maintenance as a great and beautiful city under national control, every lover of his country has much at heart; and it should present in every way a model in respect of economy of expenditure, of sanitation, of tenement reform, of thorough public instruction, of the proper regulation of public utilities, of sensible and extended charities, of the proper care of criminals and of youth needing reform, of healthful playgrounds and opportunity for popular recreation, and of a beautiful system of parks. I am glad to think that progress is being made in all these directions, but I venture to point out certain specific improvements toward these ends which Congress in its wisdom might adopt. Speaking generally, I think there ought to be more concentration of authority in respect to the accomplishment of some of these purposes with more economy of expenditure." Several appropriation bills for appropriating fund for playgrounds in the District of Columbia were considered by the 60th, 61st, and 62nd Congresses.

While the item could have been used to appeal to Progressives, the Playground Movement, desiring and encouraging the development of playgrounds throughout the country, aimed their efforts at local and state government. It is, of course, possible, but using this issue for a national political campaign would be an



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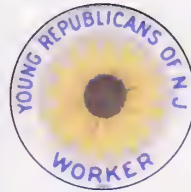
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unusual political strategy. The use of the signature at the bottom of the button is interesting. Is it a reference to Taft's letter to the American Association of Playgrounds in 1909? Did attendees return home with the President's endorsement graphically displayed on buttons as they tried to encourage city government to build and maintain more playgrounds? Since Congress was responsible for providing appropriations for playgrounds in Washington, DC, this issue was important to reformers in Washington, DC, especially when appropriations bills were before Congress. An interesting fact about this button that may be another clue is the backpaper which shows that the item was manufactured by S.N. Meyer of Washington, DC. Did reformers, knowing of the President's support, order the buttons from S.N. Meyer to urge Congress to pass these appropriation bills? These are possibilities, but do not provide a definitive attribution.

You may want to visit the local playground of the mind, the library, and see if you can find a more definitive answer, or check out another political item that interests you. It's a lot fun, and as Taft said, prevents idleness, pernicious occupations, and bad habits. Be sure to share your findings with your fellow collectors in the Keynoter.

Steve Baxley (APIC #4044) received his BA degree in journalism and history from San Diego State University in 1977. He is a writer/editor at a scientific/engineering research lab in San Diego, California. Believing that an interesting story lays behind each political item, Steve feels that finding that story can sometimes be just as exciting as finding the item itself.



Although FDR won in a landslide, his victory was not widely assumed. The prestigious Literary Digest poll, which had correctly predicted the winner of the last 5 elections, predicted Landon's victory with 370 electoral votes. The mistake is believed to be due to improper sampling via telephone: those who could still afford telephones during the Depression were more apt to be Republicans than Democrats

Not Sunflowers

The buttons below may look a bit like sunflowers but they aren't. The top item shows daisies with McKinley and TR presented as "a pair of daisies." Below that are two buttons from Maryland's liberal Republican Senator Mac Mathias, who used the "black-eyed susan" as his campaign symbol.



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APIC Intern Report: Dream Summer

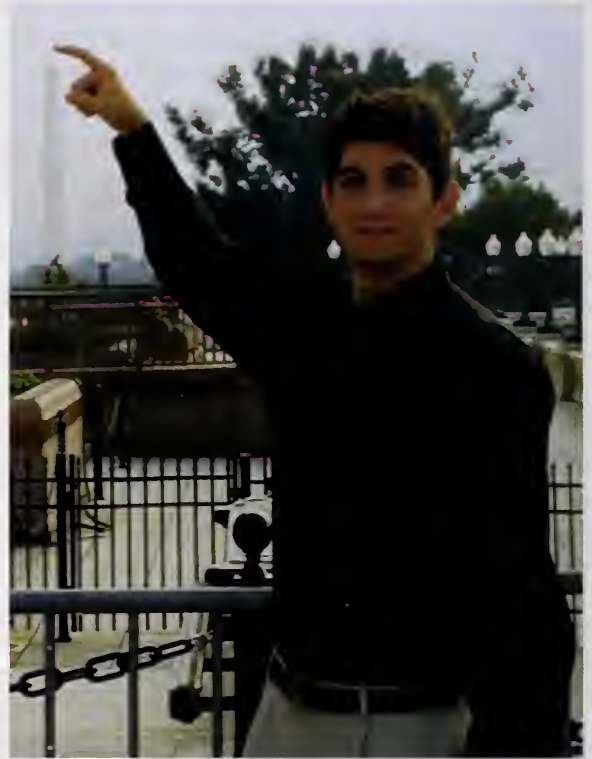
By Josh Usher

If you were to ask the typical college student what his dream summer vacation would consist of, you would likely hear the response, "hanging at the beach with friends". However, for me, my ideal summer would be spending time surrounded by thousands of scarce pieces of American political artifacts enjoying my decade long hobby of collecting political campaign memorabilia. That's exactly what I was fortunate enough to experience this summer when I was the recipient of the APIC Smithsonian/Mark Jacobs Internship which gave me the unique opportunity to work with the museum curator in the Division of Politics and Reform of the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

I thought my dad had an incredible collection of political memorabilia until I entered the collections area in the National Museum of American History. I felt like a kid in a candy store as I first entered the storage room of political Americana wondering where I should look first. I remember asking myself that question over and over again as I roamed the room of priceless artifacts. My heart raced as I opened up the women's suffrage pin back collection. "If only I could take one of these pins home with me to show my dad," I shouted to my fellow intern who knew how much of a suffrage fanatic I was. This was only the tip of the iceberg. I was in awe when the curator showed me a cloth banner picturing Thomas Jefferson from 1801, several glass pitchers featuring a handsome bearded Abraham Lincoln and a sterling silver cup presented to suffragette Susan B. Anthony on her 80th birthday.

In addition to working with priceless artifacts in the museum, I had the distinct pleasure of researching the presidential campaign of 1860 at the Library of Congress. Specifically, I focused on each of the four candidates (Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, John Breckinridge, John Bell) parade marches which were intended to promote interest in the nominee and rouse the public. I found it fascinating to scroll through numerous microfilms of 1860's newspapers from across the nation and read first hand how divided our country was on the issue of slavery. A classified ad in the Charleston Mercury advertising "black man for sale" caught my attention. This truly marks a sad period for American History.

My summer internship at the Smithsonian was an incredibly fascinating experience for me. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to see American history come alive in a way I could not have imagined before I stepped foot into the museum's warehouse of political Americana. Equally as exciting to me is finding a spectacular political campaign item in a small town shop on the back roads of rural America. Traveling around the country with my family and friends, stopping at every antique mall and flea market in sight instills in me a sense of adventure and excitement that I love about this great hobby.



APIC Intern John Usher in the nation's capitol.



The average 20-year-old probably isn't into collecting political campaign memorabilia like I am. Every time I walk up to a dealer's table at an antique show I often get the feeling that I am being ignored and the dealer is wondering what this kid is doing here or what this kid could possibly know about collectibles. Unfortunately, the majority of people I have met have this preconceived notion that just because I am young I don't know about antiques or political campaign items. This misconception is not limited to people I have met in the hobby, but even my high school history teacher was often amazed by my knowledge of American history--- much of which, I must add, was acquired as a result of collecting memorabilia and not from any teacher or textbook. On numerous occasions I can remember politely correcting my teacher when she mixed up her facts regarding some aspect of Abraham Lincoln's Wide Awake Clubs or Teddy Roosevelt's Safari to Africa. It is this relationship between history and political memorabilia that I most love about collecting. More recently, being able to read my college history text about Teddy Roosevelt's safari to Africa and then looking at a "Welcome Back" pin from 1910 picturing Uncle Sam and T.R. commemorating Roosevelt's return from Africa is the very essence of what makes this hobby so fascinating to me.

It doesn't take long after I begin a conversation with most antique dealers or collectors that they realize I am quite well informed regarding politics and political memorabilia. This is where the problem lies. In what direction is our hobby headed? Once this generation (my dad's generation) of collectors passes on, who is left to continue the tradition of collecting and preserving the priceless artifacts of our great hobby? The majority of young people in my generation lack the interest or knowledge about collecting political campaign items, and in a way I totally understand. There has not been anyone to introduce them to collecting. We must get children and young adults more involved in the preservation and collecting of political Americana. I have heard many collectors who have been in the hobby for twenty or thirty years state that their children have no desire to inherit their collection when they pass on. At most of the antique shows I have attended I have been the youngest collector by at least 25 years. This does not bode well for the future of our hobby. We need to make it a priority to educate young adults on the historical significance of political memorabilia and the great lifelong friendships that can be made as an active participant in the hobby.

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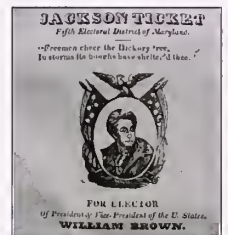
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In Memoriam: Gerald R. Ford

By Michael Kelly

I first learned of President Gerald Ford's death when the phone rang at 6 a.m. on the morning of December 27, 2006. It was the political reporter for the local paper asking me if I had heard the news and whether I had any stories of Ford for an article being rushed into print. The resulting story appears below.

I had spent time with Gerald Ford at several points. Being active in the Michigan Republican Party for many years, it was natural that my path crossed his occasionally. My first meeting with this calm, unflappable man was while a student at the University of Notre Dame and my last was at the unveiling of his portrait at the state capitol building in Lansing, Michigan. Ford was the only President to come from Michigan and it was natural for his home state to place his portrait under the dome of the capitol building along with those of Michigan governors.

In this era of vicious, personal politics guided by spin doctors, attack ads and focus groups, the quiet honesty of a politician like Gerald Ford seems as distant as an essay by Greek philosopher Democritus who wrote, "A man should feel more shame in doing evil before himself than before all the world." Undoubtedly many disagreed with some of Ford's decisions but no one could accuse him of trickery or dishonesty.

Ford Remembered for Honesty By Marjory Raymer

Reprinted from *The Flint Journal* Dec. 27, 2006

Serving as chauffeur for then-U.S. Rep. Gerald R. Ford one afternoon in 1968, college student Michael Kelly of Flint learned many political lessons. The first and foremost was the power of honesty. Ford, who was the House minority leader and visiting the University of Notre Dame, was unflappable as he answered every question posed to him, said Kelly, then president of the college Republicans.

"For a young man, it was one of the most fascinating experiences, because he just told the truth. He simply told the truth. It was an absolute education," Kelly, a longtime Flint-area political activist, recalled today.

Ford, 93, a Grand Rapids native who was the longest living president, died Tuesday.

Kelly spent about 2-1/2 hours with Ford that afternoon. Neither of them knew then that Ford one day would become president. "He was a thoroughly decent man (who) never intended to be president. I think he did more good in less time than most," Kelly said, "and I don't think he was appreciated at the time."

U.S. Rep. Dale E. Kildee, D-Flint, was a newly elected congressman in 1977 when President Ford delivered his final State of the Union address. This was shortly after Ford lost his bid to be elected president in his own right in a tight race with Jimmy Carter, and Kildee still remembers the applause. All of Congress - Republicans and Democrats alike - greeted Ford with a long sustained ovation out of respect and thanks, Kildee said today. "He was the right person at a very difficult time in our country's history. He helped heal," Kildee said. "You could tell the appreciation." Ford was greeted by a friendly Congress, in part, also because of his service there from 1949-1974, where he rose through the ranks to become Republican leader.

"He was a very, very civil individual. You could have different points of view," said Kildee, who sometimes visited Ford in Washington when he was a state representative and state senator. "(Debates) were philosophical, not personal."



Keynoter editor Michael Kelly with then-Michigan Governor John Engler and former President Gerald Ford.

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