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THE

KEYNOTER

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL ITEMS CONSERVATORS



The 1928 Democratic National Convention

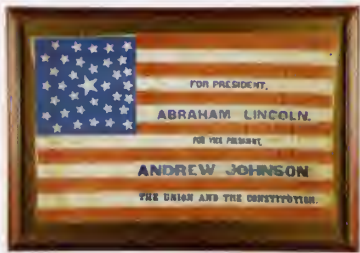
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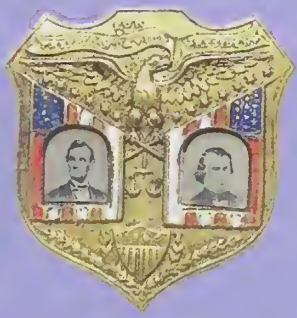
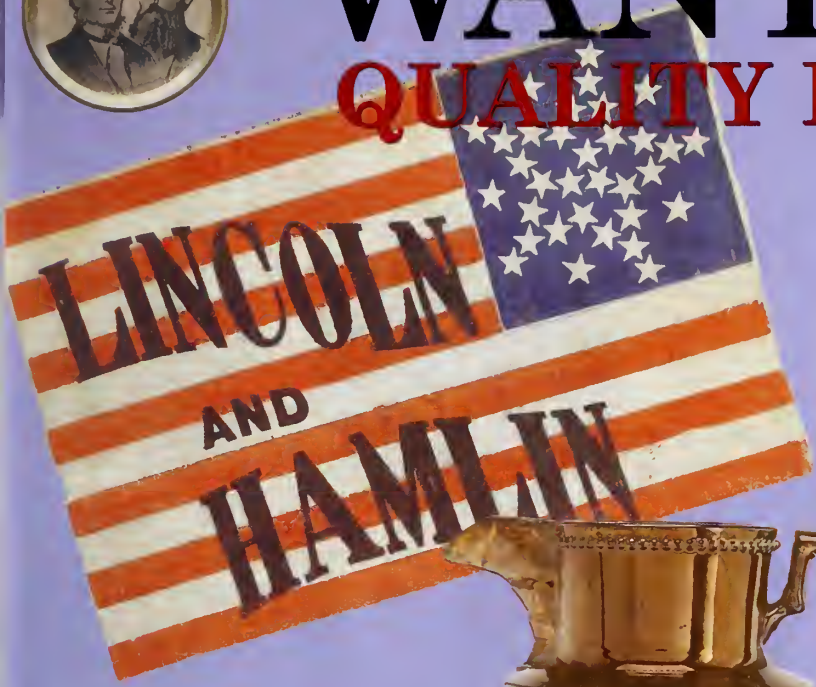
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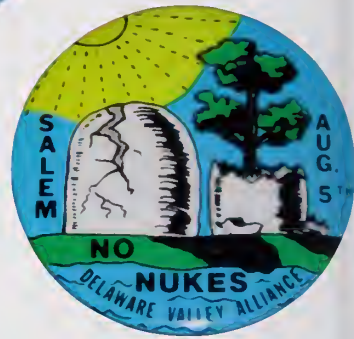
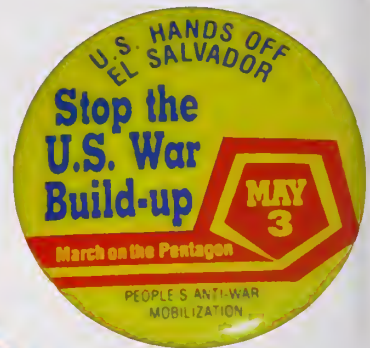
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FROM THE APIC PRESIDENT



THE 1928 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION ISSUE

Dear Readers:

Congratulations to our Editor, Michael Kelly, for publishing yet another outstanding issue of APIC's quarterly journal. This issue includes a variety of articles to suit all interests, including a fabulous essay on the tumultuous 1928 Democratic National Convention. Al Smith, who remains to this day, a larger than life personality, emerged as his party's nominee, only to be defeated in the general election by Herbert Hoover. Also, this convention marked the reemergence of FDR into national politics after his extensive physical rehabilitation, as he placed Smith's name into nomination.

This issue also includes a very interesting article concerning FDR as a collector. Just like APIC members, FDR understood and appreciated the value of tangible history. He collected and built models of historic ships which are prominently displayed throughout Hyde Park. His major collecting interest, though, was postage stamps. Stamps were a window into the past, a tangible preservation of historical events. As President, FDR recognized that history could be recorded on stamps, and is personally responsible for many of the designs which appeared during his terms of office. If he felt an historical event was relevant and worthy of preservation, he'd call the Postmaster General and direct that a stamp be issued as a commemoration.

Would FDR be an APIC member if he were alive today? I'd certainly like to think so. Despite the plethora of Willkie slogan buttons he'd see offered at our bourses, I think he'd appreciate how we, individually and as an organization, are dedicated to the study and preservation of America's political heritage. In his absence, his home and library, Hyde Park, is indeed a member of our organization. We enjoy our working relationship and are always appreciative of their assistance and efforts in furthering APIC's mission.

Enjoy your summer, have fun collecting and don't forget to make reservations for our national convention in Las Vegas. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Yours in progress,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Krapf". The signature is stylized and fluid, written in a cursive-like style.

Brian E. Krapf

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



How did it get to be 2008 so quickly? I'm sure I share that feeling with many readers. As I write, this we are in the midst of an energetic presidential election campaign that has broken new ground in many ways.

Whatever happens, this will

be one for the history books, as Harry Truman once said.

I want to welcome Dave Quintin to the pages of *The Keynoter* in a new role, as editor of a new Locals feature. More and more I find the hobby is most interesting in the odd corners – the roads less travelled, if you will. Dave will be bringing us a series of articles about non-presidential campaigns, such as this issue's look at governors of Texas.

I also need to apologize to residents of the Nutmeg State for misspelling Waterbury Connecticut as "Waterberry." Waterberry sounds like the name of some new breakfast cereal.

Enjoy the presidential campaign raging around you. There won't be another one for four more years.

Michael Kelly
Editor

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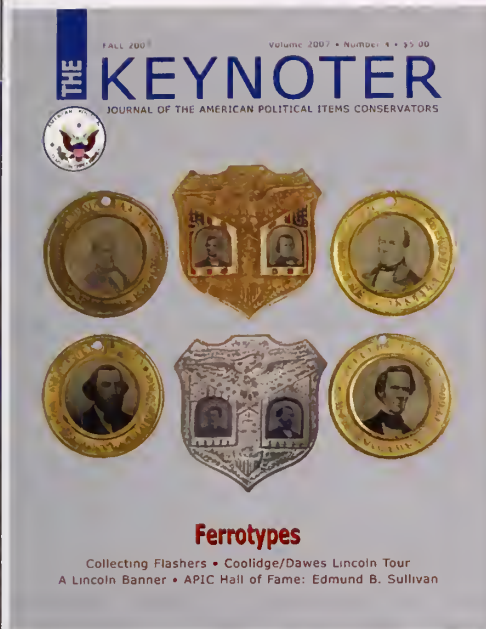
ILLUSTRATIONS--The editor wishes to thank the following for providing illustrations for this issue: Al Anderson, Steve Baxley, Germaine Broussard, Robert Fratkin, Tom French, John Gingerich, Harvey Goldberg, Heritage Galleries (HA.com/Americana), Mary E. Kenney, Barry Mushlin, David Quintin, Stuart Schneider, the University of Wyoming and Jack Wilson.

FRONT COVER--Banner from the 1928 Democratic National Convention.

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, GIF, JPEG or EPS files, preferably in Adobe Photoshop.*

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Another fine job on the Fall Keynoter. Thanks. I enjoyed Mark Gelke's article about the Fulton Wide Awake banner and noticed that he did not know the town that Mr. Dyer was from in California. I searched the voter registration data base and found only one that fit the bill as Mr. John Dyer, being about 89 years old in 1912. I hope that if he is still searching for his location that this might help. Have fun.

Dave Holcomb (APIC #5993).

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The 1928 Democratic National Convention and the Democratic Rebellion in Texas

By Jack Wilson



At 11:00 am on January 28, 1928 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. National Democratic Party Chairman Clem Shaver called the Democratic National Committee, (DNC) to order for the primary purpose of selecting a city to host the 1928 Democratic National Convention. The DNC had invitations from five cities to host the convention; Detroit, Miami, Chicago, Houston and San Francisco. And, while the Committee was meeting, Cleveland submitted an invitation by telegram.

The first presentation was offered by Detroit which consisted of \$125,00 for DNC expenses and a convention hall seating 17,000, Miami offered \$100,000 and seating for 15,000, Chicago offered \$130,000, Houston \$200,000 and seating for 6,500, San Francisco offered \$250,000 and Cleveland's offer was \$150,000. Each city's representative or representatives presented the case for hosting the convention. Houston was represented by Jesse H. Jones, the treasurer of the Democratic Party, Congressman Daniel Garrett and Governor Dan Moody.

When Houston's offer was initially read, snickers arose concerning the seating capacity. However, Jones assured the Committee that Houston would build a hall which would seat 25,000. Concerns also were expressed about Houston's geographical location. Jones assured the Committee, stating that the city was served by eighteen railroads and sixty six steamship lines. After each city made its presentation, the Committee proceeded to a vote, with 52 votes necessary to select a host city. On the first ballot Chicago received 5 votes, Miami 6, Cleveland 11, Detroit 23, San Francisco 24 and, Houston 30. Houston picked up more votes on the next three ballots, and on the fifth ballot Houston was declared the host city with 55 votes, while San Francisco received 48 and, Detroit 10.

There were two back channels at work in selecting a host city. First, there was sentiment for holding the convention in the South. There had not been a national party convention in the South since the disastrous 1860 Democratic Convention in Charleston where the party split into factions. And, as Congressman Garrett argued, the South had faithfully voted for the



Democracy only to be continually rejected as a host for the National Convention. Second, the front runner for the Democratic nomination for president was generally believed to be New York Governor Al Smith. There was support in some elements of the Smith camp to offer the vice-presidential nomination to Texas Governor Dan Moody who had addressed the DNC on behalf of Houston.

Governor Smith was viewed in some quarters as having some major liabilities. He was a northerner, a Catholic, a wet and a product of Tammany Hall. To hold the Protestant and dry South the thinking was it was necessary to have a dry vice-presidential nominee while holding the convention in the South would also be beneficial. Thus Houston was chosen.

It is interesting, however, to note the two committee members from New York split their votes on all five ballots; one voting for San Francisco while the other voted for Houston. After securing the convention for Houston, Jones returned home and formed a committee to raise the necessary funds to build a convention hall. The city sold two million dollars in bonds for city improvements. In just 64 days Sam Houston Hall/Democratic Convention Coliseum was constructed along with additional buildings to house the various party functions and headquarters.

But holding the convention in the South and dangling Governor Moody as a vice-presidential nominee with Governor Smith did not placate all the Texas factions, especially the prohibitionists. In fact, Governor Moody early on announced he would not be a candidate for vice-president.

Convention in Houston or no, a large majority of Texas Democrats were determined to fight the nomination of Smith all the way to and at the convention and even, should he receive the nomination, after the convention. Ever since William Gibbs McAdoo took himself out of the 1928 race, many in Texas were searching for a suitable dry candidate.

Montana Senator Thomas Walsh, Edwin Meredith of Iowa and, Ohio Governor Vic Donahey were considered as alternatives to Smith, as well as Missouri Senator James Reed and Maryland Governor Albert Ritchie, should the New York governor fail to get the nomination, but neither Walsh, Meredith or Donahey seemed to gain any substantial support.

The search for a candidate to challenge Smith, however, was yielding no results, thus leaving Texas Democrats without a candidate. Or as former Postmaster General Albert Sidney Burleson mused; "Smith will be nominated -- how can no one beat someone?"

Having no candidate, the anti-Smith Texas Democrats broke into two factions. The Constitutional Democrats were led by State Senator Tom Love and received support from the Ku Klux Klan. The Constitutional Democrats were pledged to support a strong prohibition plank in the party platform as well as a plank in support of enforcing the Constitution, meaning the 18th Amendment. They also denounced Smith by name and threw in Reed and Ritchie for good measure.

The second faction, Harmony Democrats or Democrats of Texas, favored a strong prohibition plank and was nominally led by Governor Moody. The Harmony Democrats pledged to work for a dry candidate but refused to denounce Smith by name.

Of course Governor Smith had a large but undetermined number of supporters in Texas.

At the Texas State Democratic Convention in May, Smith benefited from the fact many Constitutional Democrats and Harmony Democrats elected at the county conventions did not attend the state convention. Smith supporters elected 19 of Texas' 40 delegates to the national convention. Not knowing if they could expect support from any of the other 21 delegates, they joined the Harmony Democrats against the Constitutional Democrats and pledged to support Jesse Jones for president on all ballots at the Houston convention. The Texas delegation arrived at the convention determined to nominate a dry and see that a strong prohibition plank was in the party platform even if a floor fight was necessary.

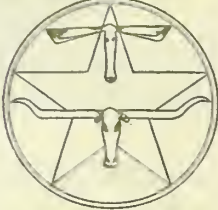
On June 26, Houston Mayor Oscar Holcombe welcomed the delegates to the Democratic National Convention. There was little suspense as to who the delegates would nominate as the party nominee. What suspense there was centered on the vice-presidential nominee and what the platform would say about prohibition.



*Shown Enlarged.
Actual size 1 1/16"*



**AL. SMITH
FOR PRESIDENT**



**SOUVENIR OF
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CONVENTION**

**HOUSTON, TEXAS
JUNE, 1928**



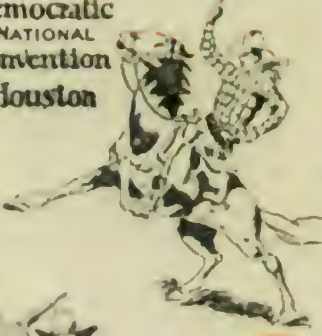


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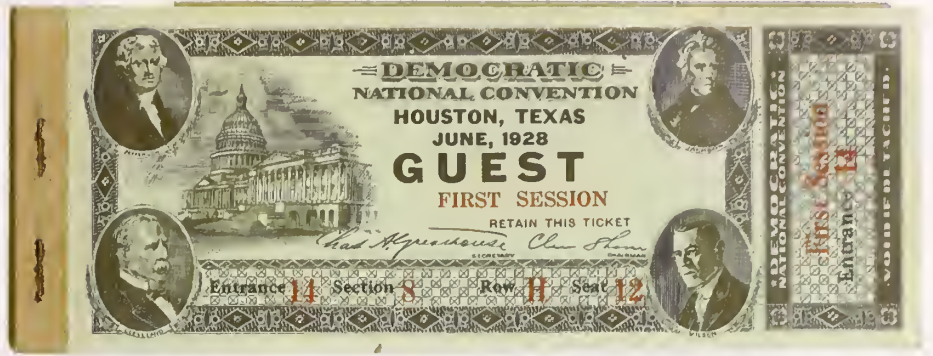
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Beginning with the second session on June 27, after certain housekeeping business was finished, the nominations for the Party's presidential nomination began. There were 10 names put into nomination; New York Governor Al Smith, U.S. Senator Walter George of Georgia, Evans Woollen of Indiana, William Ayres of Kansas, U.S. Senator James Reed of Missouri, Gilbert Hitchcock of Nebraska, U.S. Senator Cordell Hull of Tennessee, former U.S. Senator Atlee Pomerene of Ohio, Jesse Jones of Texas and, Huston Thompson of Colorado. Three others would also receive votes during the roll call.

Before voting began for the party nominee the platform was presented. During the Platform Committee meetings Governor Moody argued for a "bone dry" statement and threatened to take the issue to the convention floor. Finally, he reluctantly agreed to the provision offered by Senator Carter Glass of Virginia. The statement appeared in the platform under the heading "Law Enforcement". It read in part; "Speaking for the National Democracy, this convention pledges the Party and its nominees to an honest effort to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment." Still the delegates were not totally satisfied. Senator Glass addressed the convention on the issue; "...it does not commit anybody to the theory of prohibition. It does not constrain or restrain anybody of the opposite opinion. It simply recognizes the fact that the Eighteenth Amendment is as much a part of the Constitution of the United States as any other provision of the Constitution, and requires that the law enacted in pursuance thereof shall be honestly and uncompromisingly enforced."



Above: Ashtray with pictures of Democratic National Committee Finance Director Jesse M. Jones and Governor Moody.



Painted plaster plaque.

Below: Armband.

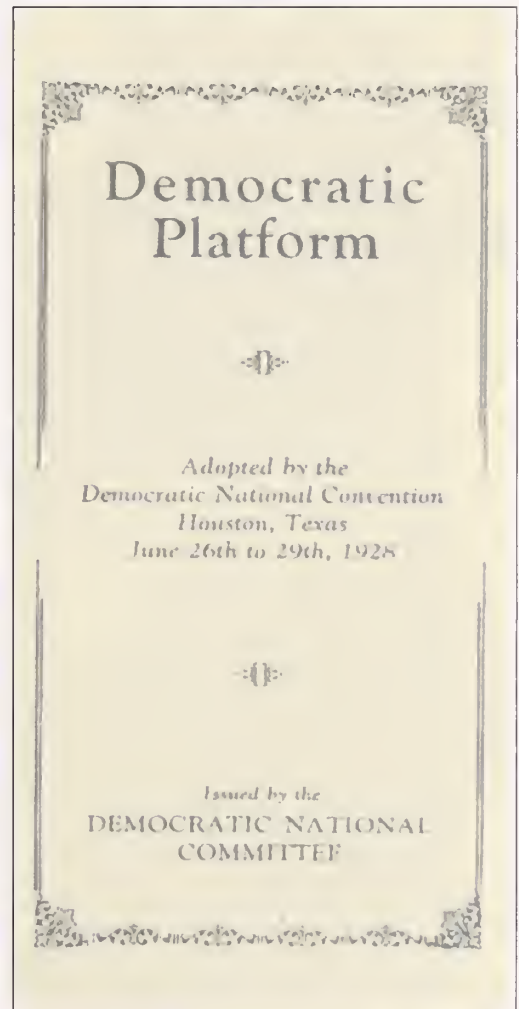


The platform was adopted and voting for the party nominee for president began. Since most of those whose names had been put into nomination were essentially "favorite sons," there was no serious challenge to Governor Smith as he received the nomination on the first ballot with 734 2/3 votes. Senator Hull received 71 5/6 votes, Senator George 52 1/2, Senator Reed 48, Senator Pomerene 47, Jesse Jones 43, Evans Woollen 32, William Ayres 20, Senator Harrison 20, Watts 18, Hitchcock 16, Governor Donahey 5 and Huston Thompson 2 votes. With Governor Smith's nomination assured there was a rush to the governor and he collected a little over an additional 100 votes. Texas refused to join the nomination of Smith and Mississippi, perhaps as a parting shot, switched one of its votes to Governor Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi.

On the last day of the convention, the last order of business was the selection of a vice-presidential nominee. It was understood that Governor Smith's choice was Arkansas Senator Joseph T. Robinson. Besides Senator Robinson, General Henry Allen of Kentucky, former Wyoming governor Nellie T. Ross (see article on page 20), Senator Alben Barkley of Kentucky and Florida Senator Duncan Fletcher were nominated. Besides those nominated, six others received votes, including Texas governor Dan Moody and Joseph Tumulty who had been President Wilson's private secretary.



Plaster plaque.



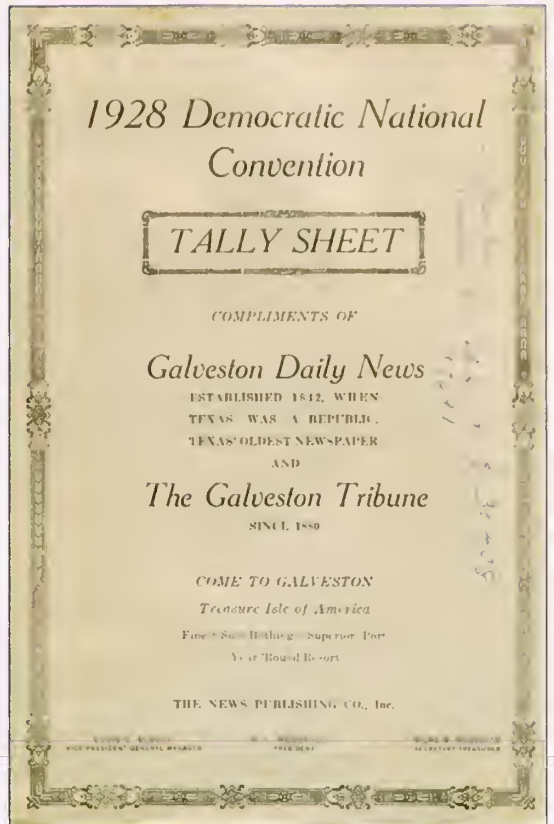
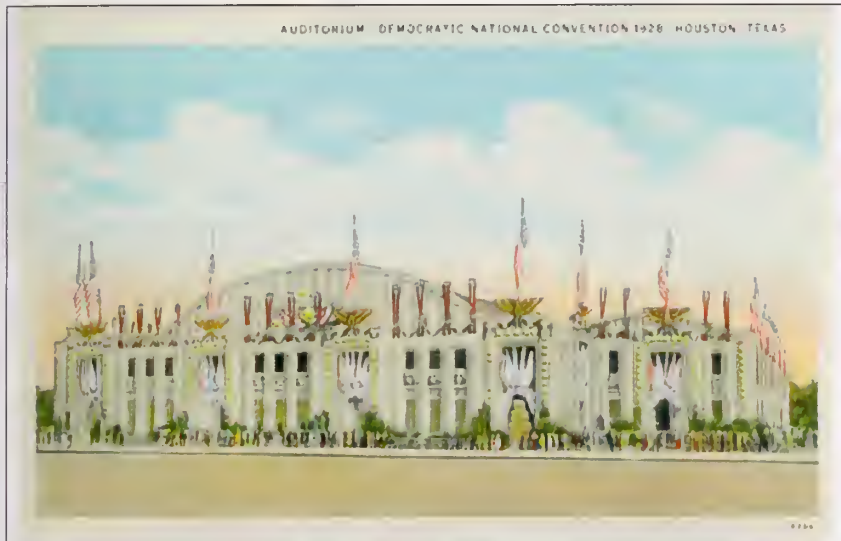
Senator Robinson was nominated on the first ballot with 914 1/6 votes, other votes were Senator Barkley 77, Governor Ross 31, General Allen 28, Berry 17 1/2, Governor Moody 9 1/3, Senator Fletcher 7, Daniel Taylor 6, Stevenson 4, Evans Woollen 2 and, Joseph Tumulty 1.

The convention ended with a presidential nominee from the North who was a Catholic, a wet and a product of Tammany Hall. Texas Democrats, by and large, and indeed most of the southern delegates, left the convention convinced they had not gotten an acceptable candidate, nor a strong "bone dry" prohibition statement in the platform.

On August 28 in Albany, New York Governor Smith accepted his party's nomination. In his acceptance speech under the title, "No Return To The Saloon," he stated "the saloon is and ought to be a defunct institution in this country." The states would determine if they would permit alcohol or not, and in those dry states, federal enforcement would enforce the prohibition laws within those states' borders. Smith thus pledged to support the prohibition of saloons, support the prohibition of interstate transportation of alcoholic beverages, and pledged federal enforcement of prohibition laws in dry states. But he would leave it to the states whether they choose to be wet or dry. Would it be enough to keep the dry, Protestant South in the Democracy? By and large the answer was yes. Smith carried Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and, South Carolina. All in all he did better in the South than the rest of the country. Of the 80 electoral votes Smith won 64 came from the South. Other than those six southern states he carried only Massachusetts and Rhode Island. And Texas? The Democrats made good their revolt, defecting from the Democracy and joining the Republican landslide for Herbert Hoover.



Front and back of fan.



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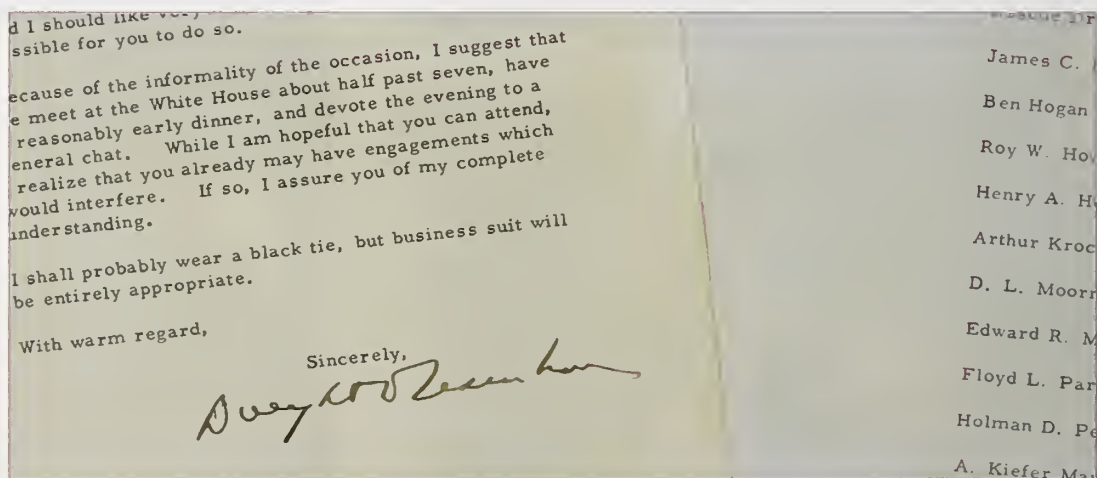
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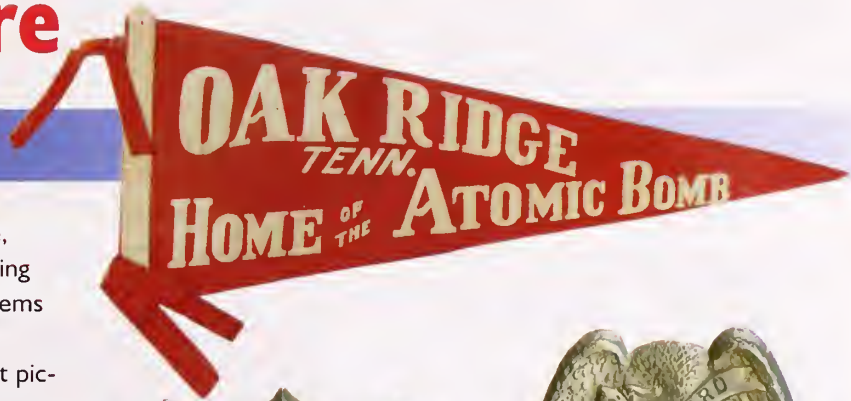
Collecting History

The Manhattan Project, Who's Hasson and More

By Robert Fratkin

In my last column, I mentioned a pair of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, badges made for the Manhattan Project during World War II that I had obtained, the only collectable items that I had ever found for the massive effort to build the atomic bomb. Several people asked why they were not pictured, and I explained that we had run out of room on my pages for the pictures. So here they are, along with a pennant probably issued in the late 40s-early 50s, when the activities at Oak Ridge were no longer secret.

For those of us who are trying to identify items for individuals or groups we don't recognize, Google has been a godsend. It is amazing how many items that can be identified successfully through Google. But not always. Many years ago, I acquired a 1-3/4" FDR 1940 button picturing Roosevelt with the words "Draft-Elect Roosevelt, Why Not?" And above the picture "Vic Hasson for Senator." I asked every collector I knew who Hasson was, and what state he came from. No one had an answer. Then, some years ago, the Northwest APIC chapter had a meeting in conjunction with a large antique show in Portland. In going through the antique show, I found the answer. It was a rectangular mirror picturing Victor Hasson of Portland, Oregon, running for State Senator. Even more interesting, the message was on a sticker (which I have never tried to remove) covering a previous run for office, with part of the Statue of Liberty showing at the edge of the sticker. In asking a number of older dealers about it, I found out that Victor Hasson had run for several offices in the late 1930s into the 40s, but as far as anyone remembered, he had never been elected. But collectors are indebted to him for putting out a great FDR coattail item. I mentioned Google because this Victor Hasson is one of the few references I was unable to find on that site.



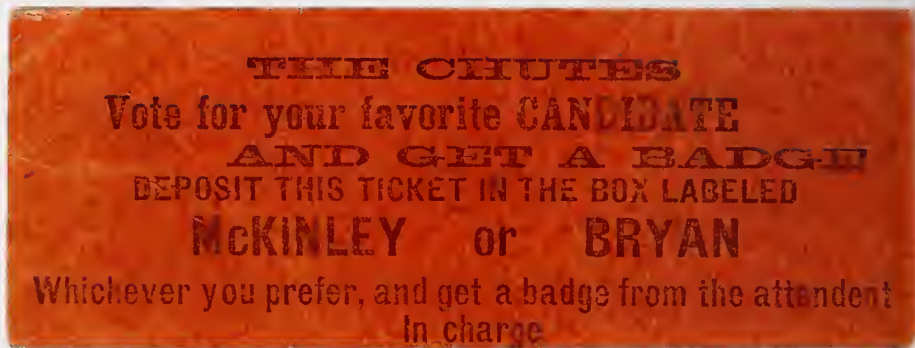



I have mentioned several times that Whitehead and Hoag salesmen around the country looked for unusual button designs which they sent back to the factory in Newark, and not surprisingly, these designs would show up on W&H buttons. The best known of these is the sepia McKinley-TR dinner pail made by a Chicago company, which was copied first as a brown-tone 1-1/4" version and then three blue/gold 1-1/4" and 7/8" versions (the larger button comes both with and without the string on Teddy's spectacles). This Taft button, issued in sepia by

Keystone Badge in Reading, PA, is most probably the precursor of the similar piece from W&H.

This next item is interesting because it is a design that was used for 1916 Wilson and Hughes buttons that are now quite scarce and expensive. The design is copyrighted by the Huntzinger Advertising Company in Wichita, Kansas, which put this button out for an Odd Fellows convention in Wichita during the 1916 campaign, dated October 10-12, 1916.

The last item came recently from eBay. Apparently, a company, organization, restaurant, bar or some other enterprise named "The Chutes" gave out these thick paper tickets which, if deposited in the McKinley or Bryan box presumably on their premises, would get the voter a badge for his favorite candidate. Third party voters would have to get their buttons elsewhere.





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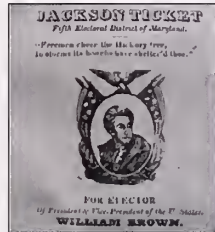
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Nellie Tayloe Ross: First Woman Governor

By Mary E. Kenney

With all the hoorah about Hillary Clinton's status as the first serious female presidential candidate, turning our attention to the first woman to serve as governor in the United States seems appropriate. And appropriate it was that the first state in the union to grant women suffrage (1869), Wyoming, the Equality State, elected Nellie Tayloe Ross as its chief executive and thirteenth governor on November 5, 1924. Governor Ross was inaugurated on January 5, 1925, thereby beating Miriam Ferguson of Texas, who had been elected as the first woman governor of Texas on November 5, 1924, succeeding her husband, but wasn't inaugurated until 15 days later.

Ross was nominated by the Democratic Party to finish the second half of her husband's unfinished term. Governor William Bradford Ross had died suddenly October 4, 1924. William Ross, a Cheyenne attorney, was a progressive, though not as radical as Wyoming Democrats who were members of the Association for Progressive Political Action. He squeaked through the primary and was elected by a narrow margin in 1922 on a platform of tax cuts, fiscal restraint for state government, and measures to aid farmers, ranchers, and laborers.

Nellie had never encouraged William's involvement in politics. He had set up his legal practice in Cheyenne, Wyoming as an eager and ambitious young attorney. Nellie joined him there from Omaha, Nebraska. Both were heirs of Southern family tradition in Tennessee and post-Civil War financial struggle for survival. They were a devoted couple, hard-working, and sociable in their adopted community in the West. Family finances were often tight and Nellie somewhat resented the necessary expenditures for competitive political participation. The loss of William was devastating to Nellie and her three sons, a close-knit and loving family circle. But the shock of loss was compounded by a stark financial reality of the loss of the gubernatorial salary. The Ross family was not wealthy and William had debts. When Nellie was approached by the Wyoming Democratic leaders, asking her to consider running to fulfill William's term and campaign promises, she had to give the option serious consideration within a very short timeframe.

As a new widow, Nellie did not campaign for the Democratic nomination and did little campaigning for the election. Having been a close advisor to her husband she was familiar with the pressing economic issues. In a special election one month after William's death, Nellie received the Democratic nomination. According to Teva J. Sheer (*Lady Governor: The Life and Times of Nellie Tayloe Ross*, 2005), she faced daunting challenges. To begin with, the role of governor was changing in the 1920s from figurehead to chief executive with increasingly professional demands in setting policy. The Republicans had a majority in both houses of the state legislature and Ross was the only Democratic among the five Wyoming state officials. She had no direct political experience and on top of that she had just one chance to gain approval of her program in the Eighteenth Legislature during January and February, 1925. The legislature convened one week after her inauguration on January 5 and was ended on February 22.

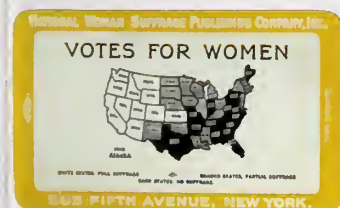
Nellie promised her party supporters to continue her husband's policies, which included government assistance to small farmers, banking reform, and laws protecting children, women workers, and miners. She supported Prohibition laws and advocated for the pending federal amendment against child labor. The state budget deficit, reduced by her husband but still substantial, was the backdrop to every piece of proposed legislation. Of the eleven proposals she did present to the Legislature, only three were enacted and those through her tact and ability to negotiate using the power of veto as a bargaining tool. By the second month of her term, direct action with the Legislature was over as the Eighteenth Legislative finished their 40-day session and went home for two years.

The election of 1926 was not a spectacular one for Ross. The campaign slogan was, "Businesslike – Able – Courageous. She has earned re-election." Her successful use of the veto then came back to haunt her. She had resisted the weakening of the governor's control over certain appointments and interstate water negotiations and had vetoed a bill that would allow special elections in the case of a Senate vacancy which really stuck in the craw of the Republicans (whose Senator Francis Emroy

Warren was quite elderly). But though Nellie did not make a great impact on the state as governor, she had quickly learned the ropes of party politics, skills at public speaking, and took full advantage of her potential leadership role as a woman in the Democratic Party nationally. Her tact and firmness in negotiations, practical understanding of organizational behavior, combined with grace and good manners, gave her the tools she needed to forge a professional path not yet taken by a woman. Nellie Tayloe Ross became involved with the Women's National Democratic Club in March of 1925 at the urging of Eula Kendrick, the wife of Senator John Kendrick. She was a charming, persuasive speaker and maintained a strong national profile. In 1928, she received votes for the vice presidential nomination at the Democratic National Convention and campaigned for Al Smith in the subsequent campaign.

In 1933 President Roosevelt appointed her as the director of the U.S. Mint, a position she held in Washington, D.C. from 1933 to her retirement in 1953 after the election of Dwight D. Eisenhower. She died in Washington, D.C. on December 19, 1977 at the age of 101.

Indeed, Nellie Tayloe Ross was what her 1926 campaign posters indicated, "The Woman Who Made Good". As a politician, an administrator, public speaker, a role model for women, and perhaps above all a faithful mother and sister, she utilized her natural charm and breeding, intelligence, and determination to create a life in public service for which, unlike Hillary Clinton, she had not planned or prepared.



Western states, such as Wyoming, were the first to grant women the vote. In 1869, Wyoming Territory Constitution became the first to grant women the right to vote and to hold public office. Postcard shown reduced.

THE FIRST WOMAN GOVERNOR

Wyoming's Governor

THE WOMAN WHO MADE GOOD



NELLIE TAYLOE ROSS

Businesslike—Able—Courageous. She Has Earned Re-election

Campaign Poster (Courtesy of University of Wyoming.)

San Francisco Likes Ike

By Henry Michalski

My older brother Jerry, who taught me about girls and the 49ers, got wind of exciting doings downtown. For a nickel, the #38 Geary bus took us from our fog enshrouded home out in the avenues to sunny downtown Union Square which was all decked out in red, white and blue bunting, and very crowded with people from out of town. The packed cable cars happily clanged up and down Powell Street transporting delegates and onlookers to the lofty hotels of Nob Hill and on to Fisherman's Wharf for crab and the city's famous sourdough French bread. At eleven years of age, I was not exactly sure what all the commotion was about, but Jerry took my hand and showed the way, as if he had mingled in upscale downtown hotel lobbies all of his thirteen years. The entire area around Union Square was all about Ike, whom everyone seemed to like, but we were from a working class family and his opponent, Adlai Stevenson, was our hero. From what I observed in Union Square, however, it was quite apparent to me that Stevenson didn't stand a chance, what with all the Eisenhower supporters mingling about.

I was naturally impressed, awed, by all the visitors to my town, their big bellies covered in expensive suits and pastel seersuckers, every lapel sporting an Eisenhower button of some sort, and the ladies in gloves, jewels and heels, smelling of fresh flowers and prosperity. It was 1956 and this was the happy, well-to-do throng I imagined America would be, since stepping off the ship on to Ellis Island seven years earlier. Eisenhower "girls" riding in open cable cars in white dresses with the words, "I Like Ike" all over them were tossing Ike buttons from wicker baskets to delighted passers-by. I was thrilled to catch a handful of the precious souvenirs, which felt like gold in my hands, tangible little pieces of history.

Jerry had the chutzpah to drag me into the lobby of the plush St. Francis Hotel on Powell Street where he learned we could get "stuff" for free. I liked that idea of free stuff, but felt out of place in the luxurious hotel full of people in suits who looked like they never missed a meal and for whom everything seemed funny. Grouped in clusters, they laughed out loud, long sustained laughter, at things others said, the kind of laughing I rarely heard from my parents and their "greenhorn" friends who were preoccupied with "making it" in their new country. These Republicans, showing perfect shiny white teeth, were in a perpetual state of happiness; everything was funny and fine to them.



Above: Woman's compact
Below: Poster



Jerry discovered that all the real excitement was happening at the Cow Palace, a place in Daly City just south of San Francisco neither of us had ever been to. He figured out which buses would take us there, and before we knew it, we were headed to nirvana, the exciting place of free stuff, famous people and lots of buttons. It was a bright sunny San Francisco day, a dream for plein air artists, not a cloud in the sky and the bus not crowded at all. Sitting up front near the driver was a huge man in a light blue cotton suit sporting a giant yellow and brown Eisenhower button, draped in a ribboned sunflower. Suspended from the button was a brown ribbon bearing the word "Kansas". The portly man was smoking a fat cigar and seemed happy like everyone else, content to be an American living in a time of peace and prosperity. This proud supporter of the president was carrying on a conversation with the black bus driver as if he had known the man all of his life. I could not take my eyes off the sunflower button, but did not have the nerve to ask the man if he had an extra, thinking that the magic "Palace" we were approaching would surely have buckets of those buttons and other wonderful treasures too heady to even contemplate. The bus trip took forever, having to transfer twice, but we finally arrived at the gigantic structure on Geneva Avenue which was shaped like a Quonset hut large enough to house a fleet of blimps!

Jerry and I found the main entrance to the arena and proceeded to walk in along with many others, but we were stopped before we could enter. Much to our horror and deep disappointment, we discovered that a pass or ticket of some sort was needed to enter "paradise". We begged the ticket takers to let us in, but they said "no, sorry boys" and told us to "get". Jerry pleaded with the men making up crazy stories..."our parents were waiting for us inside, our uncle was a delegate, Eisenhower was our grandfather", but the guards had a job to do, and part of it was removing riff-raff like us.

Now what? Not to be denied, we looked around, wondering what to do next. I thought of the woman on the ship who came down with a case of tuberculosis and was consequently not permitted to enter the "promised land" of America. She had traveled and endured so much only to be turned away at the golden doors of Ellis Island. We had spent a long time on busses getting there, and were not about to be turned away without a full inspection of all possible opportunities. Jerry took my hand and told me to follow him. We walked around the side of the huge building which was really a palace for cows, rodeos, and Grand Nationals. On the south side were cattle pens, actual places for cattle like the famous stockyards of Chicago. Suddenly Jerry dropped to the ground and began slithering under the grate motioning for me to follow. I got on my belly and followed my older brother, careful to avoid the dried out cow droppings that were everywhere like land mines, until we reached the building.

There, we discovered an empty chair next to a small door that was open and unguarded. We casually walked in as if someone were expecting us, and found ourselves in the grand stands of a huge darkened arena, with an illuminated stage on one side featuring a full orchestra, cigar smoke billowing like clouds in the spotlight and people frantically waving flags and posters everywhere. I had never seen so many people in one place. Stevenson didn't stand a chance.

On stage was Nat King Cole, the famous Black singer, making a speech about how great Eisenhower was. Jerry told me that Black people were mostly Stevenson supporters like us, but that they let Nat King Cole in because he had a good voice and because the Republicans wanted to show how fair they were. That sounded reasonable to me, so we walked around in awe, searching for buttons and free stuff, surrounded by important-looking people and busy newsmen everywhere in a constant swirl of motion.

A great cheer went up from the floor, and much to our amazement we saw an old and very pink Herbert Hoover waving to everyone from the platform. Jerry told me he was president of the United States many years ago...a failure. I wondered why people were cheering for him.



Ike on the campaign trail.

The band played, the crowd cheered, men in dark suits made speeches and another great roar came up from the floor when Vice President Richard Nixon took the stage and smiled a lot, his mouth open, waving to the crowd. He seemed thrilled to be there, but I think I was much happier picking up elephant shaped cookie cutters in neat dark blue boxes, plus posters, balloons, and lots of Eisenhower buttons. What a haul!

That Fall my mother greased up our hair and made us wear a suit and tie that was strangling me for the trip downtown to the immigration office on Kearney Street. My parents passed the citizenship test and were naturalized as American citizens!

Afterwards, as full and proud Americans we dropped into the Stevenson Headquarters on Market Street, where I was told by a nice lady to "help yourself" to as many Stevenson-Kefauver buttons as I wanted. I loved being an American!

Jerry and I begged our parents to allow us to display a Stevenson sticker on the family Studebaker or a Stevenson poster in the window of our home, but my mother would not hear of it. She said, "You never know who will report you; that you could be sent to a work camp, tortured...better to keep your political ideas to yourself."

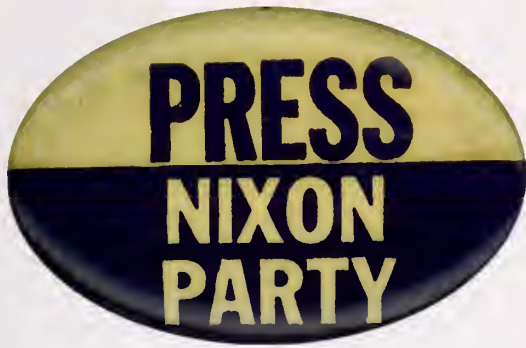
We pleaded with her that it's different

here in America, but many years of slave labor in Siberia taught her otherwise, and she would not relent. So I sat with my cigar box full of Ike and Adlai buttons wondering where I could get more, maybe older ones, when Jerry one day came home from school dangling a small lithographed "Roosevelt" button in my face that I had to have. The rest, they say, is APIC history.



*Republican beauties boost Ike on "The Eisenhower Band Wagon."
They added a festive touch to the campaign.*

Postscript: The venerable old Cow Palace, like so many other architectural treasures that have long since fallen to the bulldozer, is today threatened by politicians who openly talk of razing the old barn to make room for insatiable housing and shopping opportunities. The Great Depression put off construction for many years, one politician asking, "Why do we build a palace for cows when people are hungry?" but in 1941, using WPA funds, the Cow Palace opened its doors to the public. Besides hosting the '56 and '64 Republican conventions, the Cow Palace remains home to Grand Nationals, rodeos and garden shows. Billy Graham preached there, John Kennedy proposed the establishment of the Peace Corps there weeks before his election in 1960 (Jerry and I were there of course) and the grand old building has hosted over time the likes of Elvis, the Beatles, Evel Knievel and many more!



Wallace-Oakes Button

By Jim Kirk



I have long been curious as to who is "Oakes?" It always seemed surprising that the only known coattail jugate button from the failed Wallace campaign of 1948, included a name and face that no one in the hobby recognized. In an effort to find some answers, I googled, "Progressive Wallace Oakes" and was surprised to get one hit that mentioned all three words, in a review of "Paul Robeson's Chicago History 1921-1958." Among other things it mentioned that a Grant Oakes, Progressive Candidate for Governor of Illinois in 1948, spoke with Paul Robeson at a Henry Wallace Rally before the United Packing House Workers of Chicago on September 13, 1948.

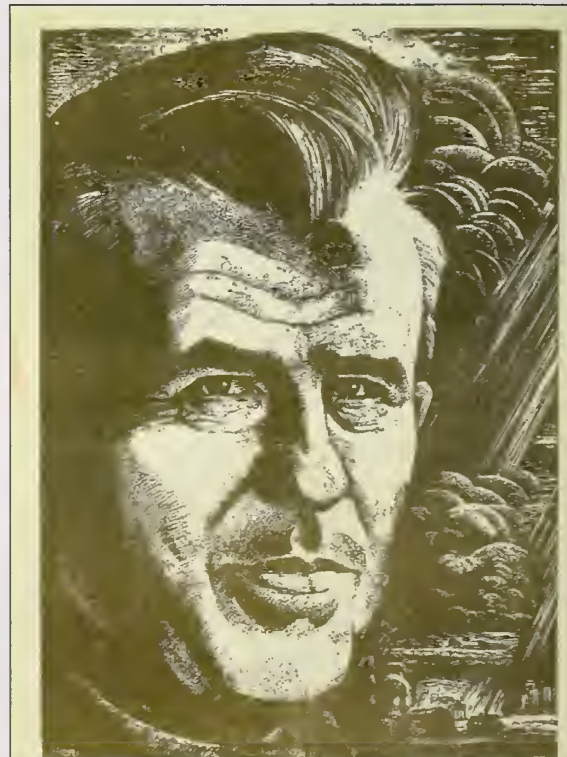
With this information I began to read about Grant Oakes (who he was, and how he fit into the Wallace campaign). Grant Oakes was the President of the United Farm Equipment and Metal Workers Union, a left-leaning union that organized Chicago's International Harvester Plant in the late 1930's, and ultimately the rest of Harvester by 1941. The union's founders were member of the Communist Party, a relationship that remained throughout its existence, even after it was expelled from the CIO in 1949 for charges of "Communist domination." Oakes was a strong New Dealer, and when Henry Wallace was asked to resign from Truman's cabinet in September, 1946, he stated, "Harry Truman has ousted the only Roosevelt man in his administration. He has chosen the path of war. He leaves people no alternative but to organize a third party on their own in 1948." In December of 1947 the United Farm Equipment Union executive board voted to urge Wallace to run for President on the Progressive Party ticket. Wallace announced for President in Chicago, December 29, 1947.

The question remains, why a gubernatorial nominee of a major third party would, paired with the Presidential nominee of that party, be so hard to identify? The answer lies deep in Illinois politics. Illinois, like many other states, makes it difficult for third parties to get on the ballot. In addition, in late 1947, the progressive wing of the Democratic Party, was "negotiating" with the "regular" party members over who would be the statewide candidates for Governor and U. S. Senator. Ultimately the "regulars" decided on Adlai Stevenson for Governor and Paul Douglas for U. S. Senate, a move that insured that the Progressives would run a ticket. While most prominent progressive Democrats approved of Adlai Stevenson, many strongly opposed Paul Douglas (mostly for his strong anti-communist stands). According to Curtis MacDougal (1948 Progressive Party Candidate for U.S. Senate from Illinois, and author of *Gideon's Army*), he, and many other progressives endorsed Adlai Stevenson, but under Illinois law, in order for a new party to qualify for a ballot position in future years, it needed to run a candidate for Governor. Grant Oakes became that candidate.

In the legal battles that ensued, Henry Wallace, Glen Taylor, Grant Oakes, and Curtis MacDougal were ruled off the ballot by the courts, and they immediately began a petition drive to obtain the required 25,000 signatures, with a minimum of 200 from each of 50 of the state's 102 counties (a most difficult task in vast rural Republican areas of the state). Nevertheless, on August 16th the Progressive Party filed 75,268 signatures, from 57 counties. These were ultimately turned down by the State Officers' Electoral Board, and this was upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court.



A 1940 Trigate.



"It will be increasingly clear to ever more workers and trade union leaders that the company parties—political equivalents of company unions—cannot serve their needs."

—Henry A. Wallace

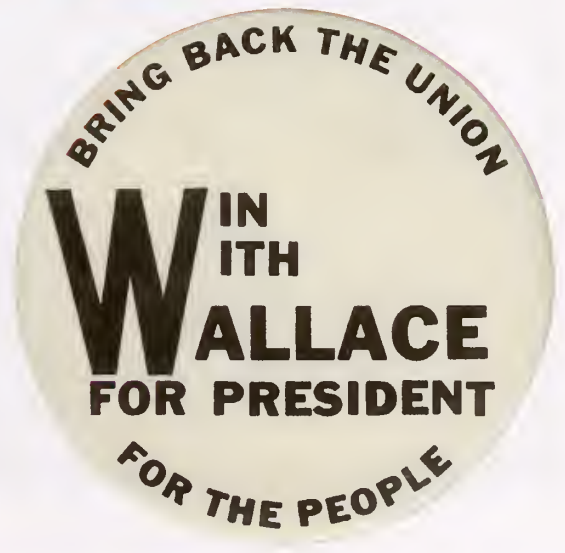
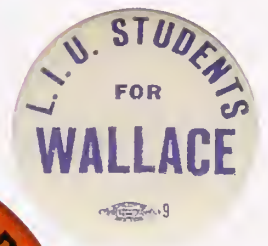
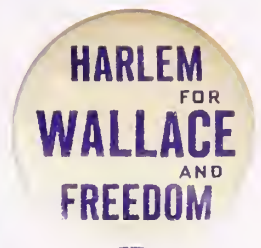
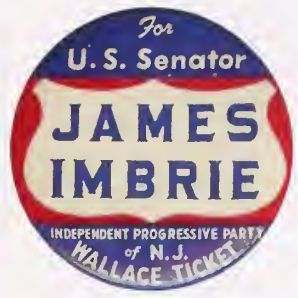
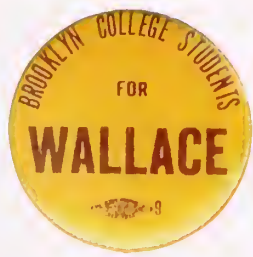
Being actively involved in several strikes that fall against Harvester, and being off the ballot, Oakes did not campaign statewide. Curtis MacDougal did actively campaign in an effort to get Paul Douglas defeated. In the end, Adali Stevenson was elected Governor, Paul Douglas was elected U. S. Senator, and Harry Truman elected President, carrying Illinois by only 16,807 votes without the Progressive Party on the ballot. Thus, the reason the Wallace-Oakes button is so obscure is that the Wallace-Oakes names never appeared on the Illinois ballot! No doubt these scarce buttons, manufactured by the Amalgamated Lithographers of America, Local 115, Shop 5, in Chicago, were thrown away by the baskets full, well before the November 2nd election!

The Wallace/Taylor Jugate



The 1948 Progressive Party campaign produced a good selection of buttons and other material but, despite the fact that Henry Wallace's running mate was U.S. Senator Glen Taylor of Idaho, there is only one known Wallace/Taylor jugate badge and none in the button format. The badge is 2" square with jugate portraits of Wallace and Taylor in front of an American flag. The plastic is

held together by brass brads. Running as peace candidates when the Cold War was just beginning, the Wallace-Taylor ticket garnered no electoral votes and less than 3 percent of the popular vote, almost half of which came from New York, where Wallace ran on the American Labor Party ballot line.



Halley's Comet and TR's Return from Africa

By Steve Baxley

Throughout human history, Mankind has looked to the skies for signs of impending doom or prosperity. Perhaps the appearance of a comet has sparked the greatest excitement and anticipation. In 1680, Edmund Halley first saw the comet that he predicted would return about every 75 years. Halley died in 1742, but as he predicted, the comet returned in 1758. In honor of his accurate prediction, the comet was named Halley's Comet.

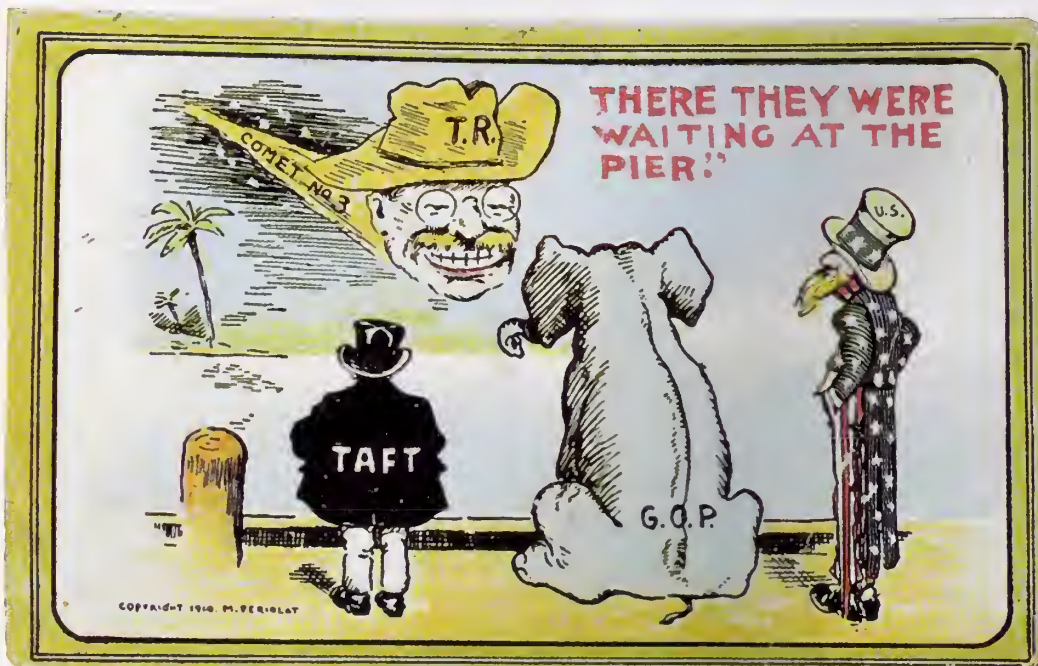
People often associate the appearance of a comet with political change. In 1861, some people saw the sighting of a comet (not Halley's) as a sign that Abraham Lincoln would bring sweeping political change. A colorful patriotic envelope distributed in the North depicts Lincoln as the "Star of the North or the Comet of 1861." Advertisers used comets on their trade cards to advertise their products, though Halley's Comet, which appeared in 1872, preceded the trade card era. The 1872 election was unusual in that the Democrats and Liberal Republicans combined to nominate Horace Greeley.

Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens), more than any other American, is best associated with Halley's Comet. In 1909, A. B. Paine, Twain's authorized biographer, wrote that Twain once said, "I came in with Halley's Comet in 1835. It is coming again next year (1910), and I expect to go out with it. It will be the greatest disappointment of my life if I don't go out with Halley's Comet. The Almighty has said, no doubt: 'Now here are these two unaccountable freaks; they came in together, they must go out together.'"

When scientists predicted that Halley's Comet would return on May 19, 1910, cartoonists used the event to illustrate Teddy



Roosevelt's return to America from his African safari trip. The comet symbolized TR's political power and influence. When a comet preceded the death or removal of an entrenched political leader, his successor was often said to have "ridden in on the tail of a comet." Local candidates sometimes "ride into office on the coattails" of a presidential candidate. Political collectors are quite familiar with the term "coattail," which describes a political item that names or shows a presidential and a local candidate. Many politicians expected to ride into office on TR's coattails.





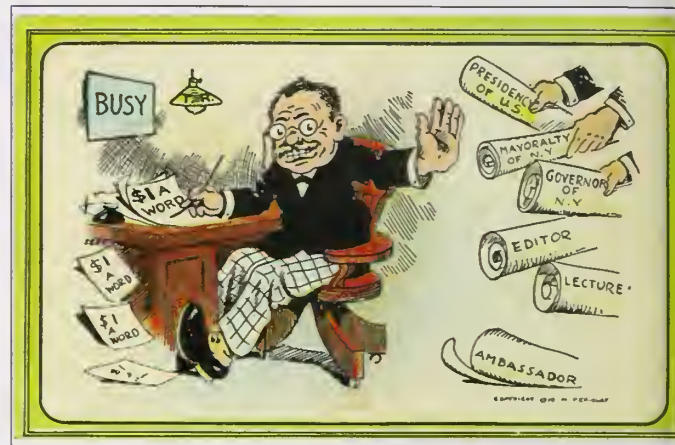
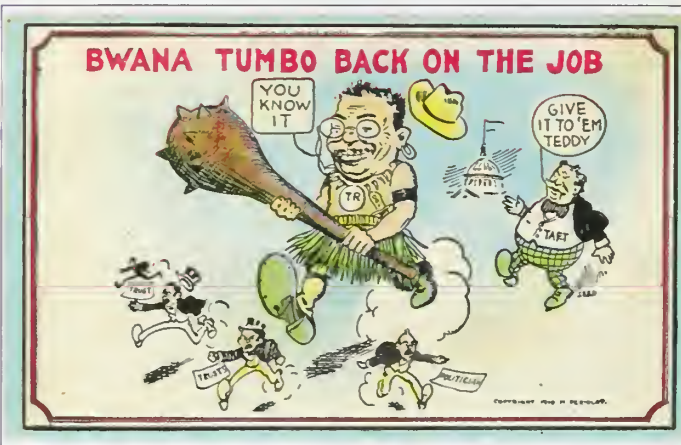
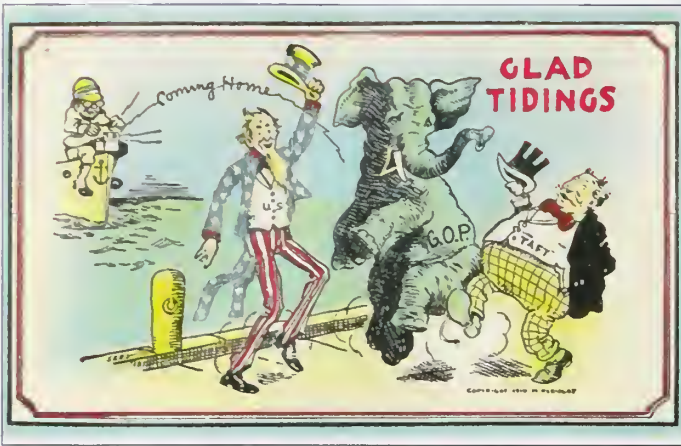
Two 1910 postcards portray TR as a comet. In one, Taft, a GOP elephant, and Uncle Sam wait on a pier as TR (the head of the comet) races toward them. The comet's tail reads "Comet No. 3" for TR's bid for a third term. The headline reads: "There They Were Waiting At the Pier." Another postcard reads "Our Own Comet" and shows TR the Comet speeding toward earth, with USA clearly labeled on the map.

TR returned to New York with great fanfare on June 18, 1910. The memorabilia from this event are some of the most desirable and colorful political items ever produced. When the tail of Halley's Comet passed through the earth in 1910, the world did not come to an end as many had predicted. But when TR returned to America in 1910, it had the political force of a comet directly hitting the earth and changed the course of history. In 1912, the Republican Party was divided, a third party received 88 electoral votes (compared to only 8 for the incumbent Republican president), and a Democrat was elected to the White House after Republicans had held the office for 16 years.

Once again, the comet had successfully predicted a major change.



Once again, we see astronomical politics with Theodore Roosevelt shown as a rising sun (upper left). The (lower right) is TR/Hiram Johnson from 1912.



This colorful set of postcards from 1910 all relate to the political conditions awaiting the wildly popular Theodore Roosevelt on his return from an African Safari. Postcards are shown at a reduced size. Note how President William Taft is shown as welcoming TR's return.



More astronomical politics: long considered a sign of the future, the eclipse of 1900 gave campaign marketers a chance to promote their candidate. These handsome buttons (shown enlarged) show McKinley being eclipsed by Bryan. There are also versions showing Bryan being eclipsed by McKinley.

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Franklin Delano Roosevelt: Hobbyist

By Michael Kelly

Herbert Hoover enjoyed fishing. Ike Eisenhower liked to golf. Bill Clinton collects political buttons. Presidents have hobbies just like the rest of us. But perhaps no presidential hobbyist was quite as enthusiastic as Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who served as national Stamp Collector-in-Chief during his twelve years in the White House.

As historian Kenneth S. Davis describes in his *FDR: The Beckoning of Destiny*: "When he was nine, he started a postage-stamp collection. He was no doubt stimulated to do so by his mother, who had indulged this hobby as a girl, had acquired some of the earliest issues following the adoption of adhesive stamps (by Britain in 1840, by the United States in 1847), and had added rare Hong Kong and Chinese issues during her years at Rose Hill in Macao. She had continued collecting until she was in her early twenties, her round-the-world travels giving her abundant opportunities to acquire foreign issues.

"She had then presented her collection to her younger brother Fred, under whom it was greatly enlarged and who now watched with approval his young nephew's increasingly serious interest in philately. He watched for a year. Then, one day, he presented his collection to the boy, who thus, at age ten, acquired a more valuable collection than many an active and affluent philatelist acquires in a lifetime.

"He continuously added to it (an early order from the Scott Stamp and Coin Company of New York, recorded in a school exercise book, was "Recu le 2 Avril 1892," and cost \$66.14). He pasted stamps into his albums with utmost care, spent hours studying them through a magnifying glass, made detailed notes upon them between the pasted rows. And from this enterprise he learned a great deal about geography, foreign affairs, and world history."

By the 1930's his collection exceeded 25,000 stamps. FDR considered the time spent with his collection to be the best way to relax from the rigors of the presidency, and he assembled a remarkable collection of interesting stamps and covers from all over the world. He was also very involved in the development of U.S. postage stamps, much more so than any other president before him or since.

In his book, *Franklin D. Roosevelt: The Stamp Collecting President*, author Brian C. Baur notes that Roosevelt once showed Prime Minister Winston Churchill a favorite stamp "from one of your colonies." Churchill asked, "Which one?" FDR replied, "One of your last.... You won't have them much longer, you know." Churchill was not amused.



Magnifying glass given by FRD as a Christmas gift to fellow stamp collectors in 1943.

FDR so enjoyed the hobby that he provided the Post Office Department with his own sketches for stamp designs. Shortly after his inauguration in 1933, the newly-elected president suggested to the U.S. Post Office that it issue a set of stamps honoring past presidents. It certainly helped that the Postmaster General was FDR's former campaign manager, James Farley. In 1937, after lengthy discussions, a decision was made to issue a new definitive series using the Roosevelt's suggestion.

His interest in stamps and his close relationship with Farley even created a small scandal. On January 21, 1935 *Time* magazine reported, "The members of the Norfolk (Va.) Philatelic Society met, last fortnight, in a blaze of indignation. Beneath their very noses a local dealer was flaunting a sheet of 200 Mother's Day stamps, unperforated, ungummed, and autographed by James Aloysius Farley. Rumor was that the dealer had insured his \$6 worth of stamps for \$20,000.

"The philatelists drafted a hot letter accusing the Postmaster General of slipping his friends sheets of unperforated commemorative stamps which promptly 'assumed speculative value 10,000 times greater than their original value.' Then they dispatched the letter to a famed fellow stamp-collector in the White House.

"Last week President Roosevelt passed it along to a highly embarrassed Postmaster General. As best he could, Mr. Farley explained that he had autographed five sheets of Mother's Day stamps, unperforated because his pen caught in the perforations. Four of the sheets he presented to President & Mrs. Roosevelt, Secretary Ickes, Louis McHenry Howe. The fifth he sent to a friend in Norfolk. 'That,' said he, 'was probably a mistake.'"

During his presidency FDR promoted stamp collecting in many ways. He had a hand in every stamp issued during his period in office, suggesting some, designing many and giving his final approval on all issues. He arranged for the issuance of souvenir sheets at national stamp conventions and saw that many stamps had their first days at philatelic events. FDR received the first sheet of every new commemorative issue.

During his presidency, he regretfully declined invitations to attend any local, national or international philatelic events. However, he always sent an enthusiastic and knowledgeable reply, regretting his inability to attend but wishing he could.

His stamp collection contained an exceptional array of die proofs of 20th century U.S. stamps given to him by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. It also contained full sheets of the stamps issued during his presidency, signed by post office officials and members of the BEP. His collection included many large and elaborate presentation albums containing unlisted varieties, proofs and essays given him as head of state by many foreign governments.

After his death, FDR's stamp collections were sold at a series of auctions in 1946. His collections brought sensational prices. The autographed sheets likewise sold at unexpectedly high prices. The presentation albums also caused a sensation, selling for prices far beyond their estimated philatelic values.

The items from what might be called his "regular collection" consisting of a diverse group of U.S. and foreign stamps and covers, also sold out of proportion to their normal philatelic value. Collectors wanted to own an "ex-Roosevelt" item. What was most astonishing were the prices paid for bulk lots of ordinary, first day and souvenir covers addressed to him from stamp clubs, exhibitions and private collectors. Those lots were broken up, hand-stamped "From the Franklin D. Roosevelt Collection," and sold individually to eager collectors.



A Fun Find

By Michael Kelly



While we all can appreciate the pursuit of classic items like the 7/8”

Cox/Roosevelt jugate, some of the best moments in our hobby come from those little treasures we find that are just fun.

Collector Barry Mushlin (APIC # 10326) shared one such fun find recently and is working on a feature article documenting a large number of those discoveries.

About three or four years back, Barry was roaming through New Bedford, Massachusetts and was browsing through the items on display in one of the antiques co-ops there. According to Barry, “I came across a file folder containing a number of 1960’s political items. There were mostly LBJ bumper stickers and pamphlets, a few JFK bumper stickers, a couple of Kennedy/Ward palm cards, and two other unusual items.”

The first was a small pamphlet boosting Michael Dukakis for Attorney General, a 1966 race in which he was unsuccessful. But the best was yet to come.

The second item was a classic fold-open pamphlet, issued by the Brookline, Massachusetts Democratic Town Committee in 1964. The pamphlet would have been distributed only within the town of Brookline which, it should be noted, is the hometown of both JFK and Barry Mushlin. The pamphlet featured names and pictures of that year’s Democratic ticket, including Lyndon Johnson for President, Hubert Humphrey for Vice President, Edward Kennedy for U.S. Senator, Thomas P. O’Neill for Congress, and Michael Dukakis for State Representative.

Barry said, “Once I saw this flier, I immediately went to the desk and made the purchase - I was unwilling to let it out of my hands for even a minute. Never had I ever seen such an array of candidates on a single piece of any sort. Four different candidates for president plus House Speaker Tip O’Neill, next in line to Nixon following Agnew’s resignation and next in line to Ford until Rockefeller’s confirmation. I did go back later and confirmed that I hadn’t missed any other brochures elsewhere in the shop.”

Any collector can appreciate the excitement of such an unexpected find.

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277-0145

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Boston, Massachusetts
727-3956

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Room 403, 11 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts
227-6961

For ATTORNEY GENERAL



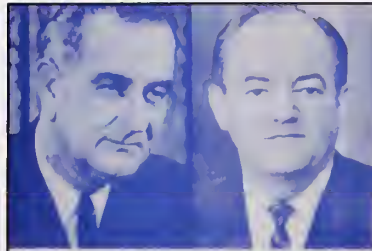
MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Democrat — Brookline



Bumper sticker (shown reduced).



Buttons are various sizes but shown 1-1/4" for graphics purposes.



PRES. LYNDON B. JOHNSON SEN. HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
For Vice-President



SEN. EDWARD M. KENNEDY
For Reelection



LT. GOV. FRANCIS X. BELLOTTI
For Governor



CONG. THOMAS P. O'NEILL
For Reelection

We seek today, as we did in Washington's time, to protect the life of our Nation, preserve the liberty of our citizens, and pursue the happiness of our people. This is the touchstone of our world policy.

PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON
April 20, 1964

The stakes are too high
for you to stay at home



SEN. BERYL W. COHEN
For Reelection—State Sen.
State Representative 1960-64
Chairman
Committee on Labor and Industry
Clerk, Committee Constitutional Law
Sponsor,
United Nations Day Observance
Practicing Attorney



REP. MICHAEL DUKAKIS
For Reelection—State Rep.
Legislative Leader
Housing, Mass Transportation
Clerk, Legislative Committee on
Public Service
Town Meeting Member
Brookline Community Council
Practicing Attorney



JACK BACKMAN
For State Representative
Vice Chairman,
Brookline Housing Authority
President,
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Fulbright Scholar, Ph.D.
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VOTE DEMOCRATIC — ALL THE WAY — ON NOVEMBER 3rd

A Message From
The Brookline Democratic Town Committee

This is indeed a crucial year
... For our nation
For our state

EVERY VOTER MUST ASK HIS CONSCIENCE

Do I Want —

- PEACE WITH SECURITY
- AID TO EDUCATION
- BETTER HEALTH CARE FOR THE AGED
- BETTER HOUSING
- ANTI-POVERTY LEGISLATION
- EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL

The Democratic Party is the forward-looking party... The party of dynamic concern for progress, of sober regard for peace and security.

It is crucial to vote Democratic ALL THE WAY.

The stakes are too high
to stay at home

William R. Sabers, Chairman
294 A. Vendale Rd. Brookline

A TEAM TO VOTE FOR
ON NOVEMBER 3rd

- President
LYNDON B. JOHNSON
- Vice President
HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
- U. S. Senator
EDWARD M. KENNEDY
- Congress
THOMAS P. O'NEILL
- Governor
FRANCIS X. BELLOTTI
- Lt. Governor
JOHN W. COSTELLO
- Secretary of State
KEVIN H. WHITE
- State Treasurer
ROBERT Q. CRANE
- Attorney General
JAMES W. HENNIGAN
- State Auditor
THADDEUS BUCZKO
- Governor's Councillor
PAUL J. DONAHUE
- State Senator
BERYL W. COHEN
- State Representative
MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
- State Representative
JACK H. BACKMAN
- State Representative
RAYMOND T. McNALLY
- Register of Deeds
BENJAMIN REDNER
- Clerk of Court
JOHN P. CONCANNON
- Commissioner
JAMES J. COLLINS
- Commissioner
GEORGE B. MacDONALD

Vote Democratic on November 3rd

This year ...
of all years ...
it is crucial
for Brookline voters
to vote Democratic

ELECTION DAY — NOV. 3rd ...

The Size is the Thing!

By Harvey Goldberg



JFK and Nixon mini-buttons.

When I first started collecting, I used the 'shotgun' approach; but I soon found out that that there was just too much material to get it all. More to the point, this shotgun approach wasn't really fun. So I started collecting FDR pins; after all, with four campaigns there were untold numbers of pins to be found. But FDR was an 'historical figure' to me. Born the same year as Roosevelt's re-re-re-election in 1944, I really didn't feel any connection with him and the interest waned. I still pick up an occasional FDR, NRA, and other related items, but have gone on to smaller and better things.

When you have been collecting as long as I have, you realize that numbers, such as 'how many items you have', are not really important. Yet if you specialize in one candidate, campaign, cause, era, etc., you eventually reach a saturation point where new additions to your collection become a 'game of numbers'. The items you do not have become more and more difficult to find – and more expensive to acquire.

Over the years I have been able to switch gears from time to time, adding new and different areas of specialization to my collections. However, these new interests are not just 'something to collect'. The topic must be something of interest to me, something that offers the opportunities for research and learning as well as finding additional items with more frequency.

A number of years ago I came across a tiny 5/8" campaign item for Robert F. Kennedy at the old Atlantique City Antique Show [pictured here]. As a Kennedy collector, I was very pleased to be able to add it to my RFK collection, especially since I'd never seen it before. In rearranging my frames shortly thereafter, I found several other pins the same size – Wilson, McKinley, TR, FDR, and even a 1920 Cox pin. I wondered how many other small, 'miniature' buttons there were. And suddenly, a new specialty was born – campaign buttons 5/8" or smaller.

My next APIC show was the now defunct DeWitt Regional in North Haven, Connecticut. I came home with more than a dozen presidential "mini's" and one local pin that was even smaller than the 5/8" RFK button. So I expanded to include any pins 5/8" or smaller – presidential, hopeful, minor party, cause and locals. I include jugates, picture pins, word pins, or whatever else in those categories happens to be 5/8" or smaller.



Over the years I've found pins that other collectors say they have never seen before. Maybe they are overlooked because they're so small. There are suffrage, prohibition, political and more. My rules have been set, though. They include pinbacks (cello or litho), stud-backs, even stick-pins... as long as they are the right size. But no jewelry-type items or enamels.

Many long-time members, especially those with advanced collections, have on occasion become bored with the hobby. Either they lose interest or they can't find items to add to their collections. Time and again I've heard someone ask the rhetorical question 'how many shows can I go to and not find anything?'

Having specialized in the Kennedys for almost 40 years, it is difficult for me to find Kennedy items. When I do, there is cause for celebration. But unlike some of my colleagues and former colleagues in APIC, I have found ways to expand my interests. With new collecting interests, there is no boredom. There is always something to look for – and find.





After a time several trends began to appear among these little pins. In the first part of the 20th Century, the presidential candidates most easily found were from McKinley, TR, Taft, and Wilson, with the greatest variety for William Howard Taft. Why these campaigns? Perhaps it was because America, as a whole, was outwardly conservative during that period of time. I did find it amusing that the largest number of the smallest campaign buttons seemed to be for the biggest man ever to

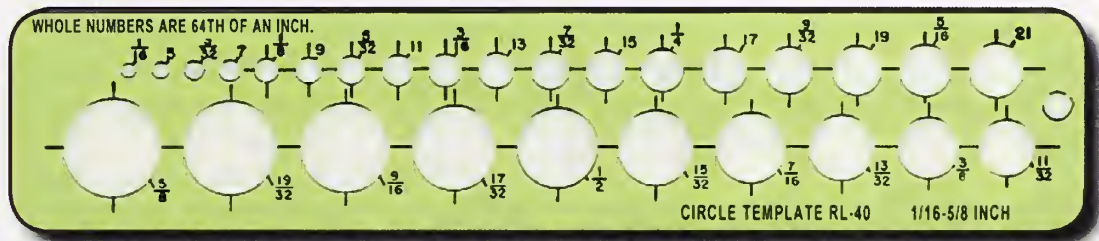
sit in the Oval Office.

It also looked like Republican candidates had more mini-pins than did the Democrats – except for Woodrow Wilson. Was it because members of the GOP were more conservative than their rivals on the other side of the aisle, or was it because the Democrats were more public in their support than Republicans? I'm sure we could come up with an unending parade of theories on this.

Since my eyesight is not improving with age, people wonder why I am searching for these tiny pins with sometimes difficult-to-see details. I do use a magnifier occasionally, and the strength of my reading glasses has gone up. But there's something about these little pins that keeps me interested and searching for more. And they do turn up – almost with regularity.

That's part of the enjoyment and eliminates one of the most frustrating segments of this hobby – the inability for specialists to find additions to their collections.

At first I used a template to check the size of the pins. After all, an 1 1/16" litho isn't a lot bigger than a 5/8" pin. By this time, though, I can usually recognize them easily. But I still keep my trusty gauge with me – just in case.

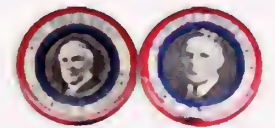


A template like this is useful.



Some of the older pins are truly beautiful – gorgeous color and rich sepia tones, some with an unbelievable amount of writing on them, with images that require a magnifying glass to see. And of course, some of them are nondescript, just like their larger cousins, but they're the proper size for me.

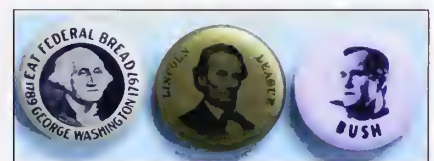
I am always asked the question, "How many little pins do you have?" I really don't know. I've never counted them. I've rearranged them, reorganized them, re-photographed them, but I've never counted them. Mathematically I could fit 312 of them in a 12" x 16" riker mount – even allowing for the curvature of the pins. But since they range all the way down to 3/8" diameter, there could be more.



Although I do not pick up every small button that I come across, I marvel at the artwork and graphics of some of the non-politicals that I see. The collection now includes some additional categories: World War I & II related (W.S.S. etc.), other patriotic themes, and political organizations – in the appropriate sizes.

Once again, you have to ask why people would utilize such small buttons in supporting their favorites. Maybe it was because suffrage and prohibition were such intensely contested issues? Were people as passionate in opposition or support during the two World Wars? First thoughts might suggest the need to conserve materials for the war efforts. But considering the massive number of larger home front pins produced, I doubt that was a reason.

In any case, the miniature pins declined in numbers and usage from FDR forward. Several campaigns offered but a very few campaign buttons of this size. In fact, after the 1960 campaign, they have virtually disappeared. And for recent campaigns, the trend is anything but small pins. And that's a shame. Some of the large pins used today are beautiful and would make gorgeous 'mini-pins'.





I am a born collector – and an historian as well, albeit an amateur. I still want to know ‘where, what, when, who, why?’ Where and when was the item used? What did it represent? Who may have used it and why? So the research aspect of collecting these little buttons is just as important as it was when I first started. If finding these mini-pins ever becomes extremely difficult or unproductive, I may switch gears again. But meanwhile I look back at those old clichés, “Little things mean a lot”, “the best things come in small packages”, etc.. So if it’s 5/8” or smaller, pinback or stud, celluloid or litho, I’m looking for it.



For the most part these ‘mini-pins’ are relatively inexpensive, and except for a select few, relatively unimportant as political buttons go. I don’t think there are any so-called ‘classics’ among them but I love them. And surprisingly, both of my top special interests in the hobby (Kennedy & mini-pins) started with trips to Atlantic City, New Jersey. But the most important thing I’ve learned is that you’ve got to have fun in your hobby. Enjoy what you collect; enjoy the people; enjoy the travels and the searches. If you don’t, just spend more time at work and forget the hobby. Or find a less challenging hobby.



Taft had lots of mini-pins.



America First pins.

Locals

Governors of Texas

By Dave Quintin

This is the first of a series of articles featuring political campaign items related to the election of governors. The majority of political campaign collectors specialize in collecting presidential items either for a specific candidate or candidates or a general collection of all candidates but many collectors have also assembled a collection of gubernatorial items from their respective states due to the local interest aspect. For the most part, assembling a collection of this nature is relatively inexpensive compared with today's prices in the presidential arena. In that regard collecting governor items can be fun, inexpensive, as well as an educational adventure.

As with presidential items, collectors can limit their collecting scope to just political buttons or expand into various other areas. Some of the more popular areas other than buttons are ribbons, postcards, palmcards, posters, brochures and blotters.

Each article in this series will feature gubernatorial items for a specific state. I will attempt to highlight some of the more interesting buttons as well as other campaign items that are of historical interest. In an attempt to showcase items that most collectors have not seen, most of these items would be considered uncommon to rare.

I started collecting Texas governor items over thirty five years ago, so I thought a good place to start this series would be with Texas. It is worth noting that our current President, George W. Bush, ran for the White House as Governor of Texas.

First a little background on Texas politics with regard to the use and availability of political items since 1892, the earliest use of campaign buttons in Texas.

The use of political buttons and various other campaign items beginning in 1892 was somewhat limited due to several factors. Prior to 1906, all political parties were required to select candidates for statewide offices in state party conventions. Primaries to select governors were introduced in 1906, but due to the prominence of the Democratic Party a Republican gubernatorial primary was not held until 1926. The Democratic candidate for governor selected in convention or in the primary was tantamount to winning in the November general elections. Texas was a one party state during this period, and a minimum of campaign material was needed or produced for the general elections. Most of the campaign material produced from 1892 to the 1960's was in conjunction with the Democratic primaries.

The Democratic Party held the governor's office from the end of Reconstruction until 1978. While the Republican Party was the only opposition immediately after Reconstruction, by 1878 other parties had made their appearance. In the eleven elections from 1878 to 1898 the Republican Party finished second in only three elections and was not represented in four other elections. It was not until 1900 that the Republican Party became the second largest vote getter; though often drawing less than 25% of the vote.

The scarcity of early Texas governor items can also be attributed to a number of other factors. The relatively small population of Texas during this period affected the quantity of items produced. Ranking either fifth or sixth in population during the period from 1900 to 1970, Texas had only about a third of the population of New York, and that population was widely dispersed.

Many of the items that were produced didn't survive due to the inclement Texas weather. Many parts of the state are bordered by a coastline where high levels of salt breezes and hurricanes are common. Tornados are also prevalent throughout most of the state. These conditions all contributed or accelerated the deterioration of many of the items before collectors could preserve them.

With the above in mind the following is a personal selection of my favorite Texas governor political items in no particular order, with a little history for each.



1. **T.L. Nugent "For Governor T. L. Nugent"**

Ran in the 1892 and 1894 general elections as the Peoples Party candidate.
5/8" black & white cello stud – only known example

2. **George Clark "Clark and Elective Commission"**

From the 1892 Democratic governor campaign. The campaign issue in Texas in 1892 was to have an elective Railroad Commission thus the elective commission slogan.

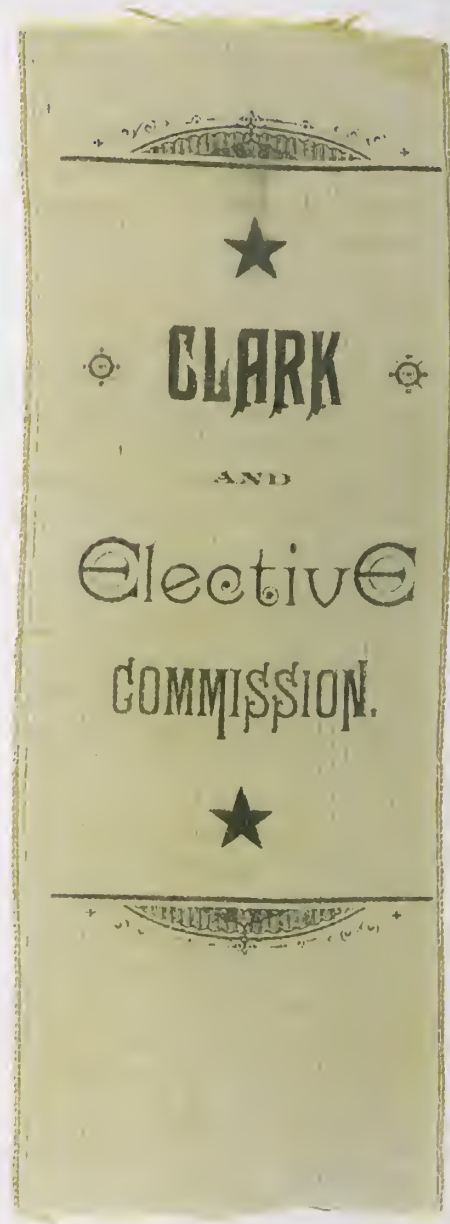
6" x 2 -1/2" black & white silk ribbon. – only known example



3. **R.R. (Bob) Williams "Hon. R.R. Williams and Wood Shop, Cumby, Tex. Candidate for Governor of Texas"**

From the 1908 Democratic Primary. Williams lost the primary to Thomas M. Campbell who went on to be elected governor in November 1908.

5-1/2" x 3" colored postcard printed for Berry Bros., Cumby, Texas by Webb Freyschlag Mer. Co., Kansas City, Mo. – only know example. Early Texas campaign postcards are very rare.



4. **O.B. Colquitt "He Does Things O.B. Colquitt for Governor"**

Colquitt lost Democratic primary in 1906 and was elected governor in 1910 & 1912.

1-1/4" black & white celluloid, manufactured by Whitehead & Hoag Co.– only 3 known examples.



5. John N. Simpson "For Governor John N. Simpson"

Ran for governor in 1908 as a Republican and lost. This is the earliest known Texas Republican celluloid.

1-1/4" sepia on white celluloid with gold rim. Manufactured by Hyatt Mfg. Co., Baltimore, Md. – less than 5 known copies.



6. Thomas H. Ball "All for Ball - Ball for All"

Ran for governor as Democrat in the 1914 primary and lost. Served as mayor of Galveston, Texas.

7/8" black & white celluloid manufactured by Bastin Bros. Co. – uncommon.



7. P.D. Renfro "Renfro for Governor"

Served as mayor of Beaumont, Texas. Lost 1938 Democratic primary, finishing 6th of 13 candidates and receiving only 8,127 votes of 1,114,885 votes cast. 1" yellow on black celluloid, manufacturer unknown – only 4 examples known.

8. W. Lee O'Daniel "Our Governor W. Lee O'Daniel"

O'Daniel was first elected governor in 1938 and reelected in 1940 as a Democrat. This is from this 1941 inauguration. He resigned in 1941 to run in the special election for US Senate which he won, defeating Lyndon Johnson in a large field of candidates. 1-3/4" black & white celluloid, manufacturer unknown – uncommon.



9. Orville Bullington "Roosevelt/Garner/Bullington"

Bullington, a Republican, was supported by anti-Miriam Ferguson Democrats on this 1932 Presidential/Vice Presidential/Governor coattail.

7/8" white on blue lithograph, manufacturer unknown – uncommon.



10. Ross Sterling "Sterling for Governor It Won't Be Long Now"

Elected governor in 1930 as a Democrat and lost his re-election bid in 1932 to Miriam "Ma" Ferguson in the Democratic runoff.

7/8" blue/white cello manufactured by St. Louis Button Company - rare only 3 know copies.



11. Harry Hines "Elect Harry Hines Governor – Texas Needs Him, etc."

Hines ran in the 1940 Democratic primary and lost to W. Lee O'Daniel. This is the only known campaign item for Hines, a two sided multigate fan showing 7 candidates for statewide office. 7"x 9" black & white fan, manufactured by Meteor Publishing Co, Madisonville, Texas - only known example



12. J. Evetts Haley "J. Evetts Haley for Governor for Segregation & States Rights"

Haley ran as a Democrat in the 1956 primary and lost to Price Daniel. It is interesting to note the two main issues of the time; segregation and states rights. Both were very prominent issues in Texas in the 1950's. 11"x14" black & white poster with Amarillo, Texas union bug – rare.

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*"I'm coming
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Bill Mastro is coming to the APIC National Convention in Las Vegas to acquire consignments for upcoming auctions and to buy material.

Bill will be at the Riviera for Room Hopping on August 4th and working the floor of the National Convention on August 5-6.

To get together with Bill to discuss auctioning or selling your collection or significant items, **call him directly on his cell phone today at 630-461-6400**. We always have MILLIONS OF DOLLARS available for consignor cash advances.

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When Ted Hake began Hake's Americana & Collectibles in 1967, his primary focus was political collectibles, and they made up a large portion of Hake's early mail-order offerings. Now, 41 years later, political buttons still have a strong presence in any Hake's auction. In those 41 years, Ted has authored many books on collectibles, with his Political Button books and the Revised Prices booklet of 2004 remaining the primary source of information among political collectors and dealers.

HARDCOVER

Encyclopedia of Political Buttons

BOOK 1 1896-1972

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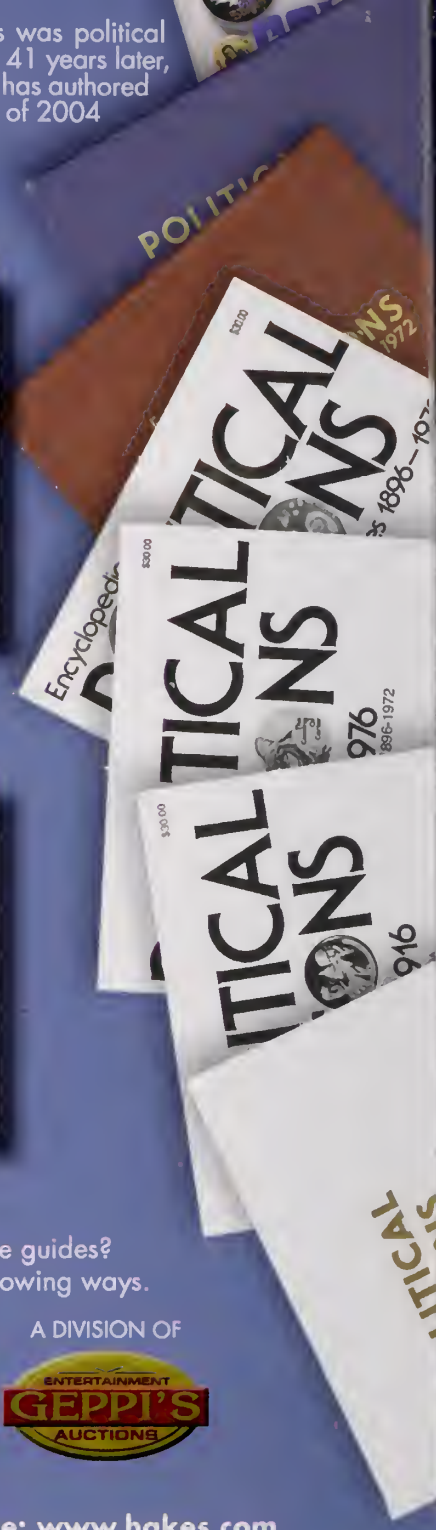
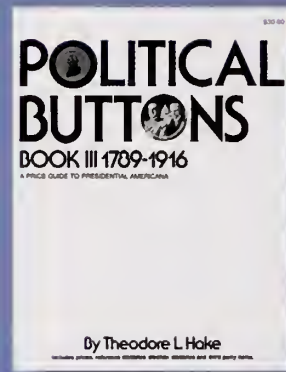
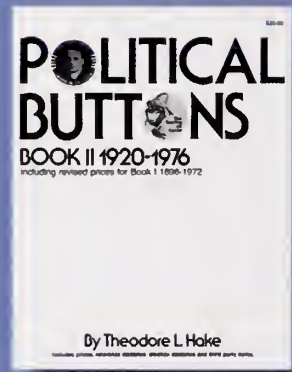
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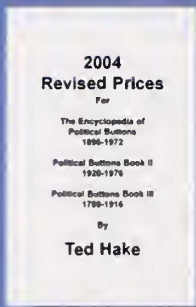
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