

SUMMER 2024

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THE

KEYNOTER

THE AMERICAN POLITICAL ITEMS COLLECTORS



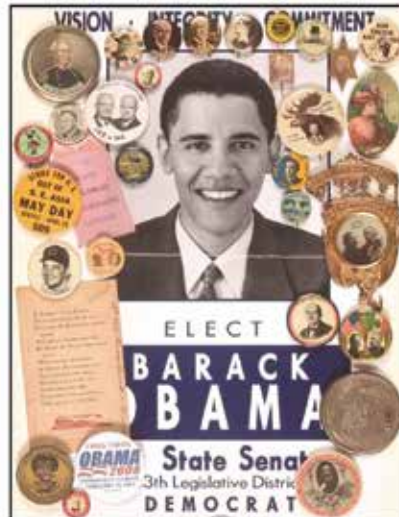
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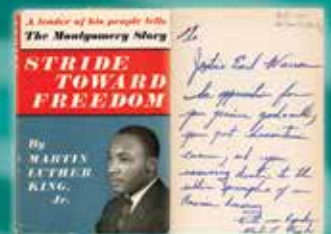
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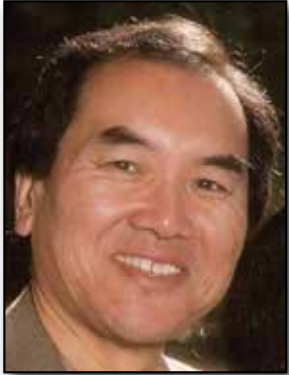
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FROM THE APIC PRESIDENT

My past four years as president of the American Political Items Collectors (APIC) has been a whirlwind. There was much joy in accomplishment, sadness in the passing of good friends, and maybe a little relief in reaching emeritus status. This is my last column in *The Keynoter* as president. I have had the great honor and privilege to serve you and the organization. I want to especially thank APIC Secretary Matt Dole, Treasurer Tom Morton, Webmaster Lon Ellis, Membership Services Director Darla Gonzalez, Counsel Carter Todd, and the APIC Board for their support, advice, and friendship during my tenure.



I am proud of what we have accomplished. We successfully navigated the organization through a global pandemic. We launched a new APIC website to take us into the future. We updated our APIC Bylaws and adopted a new Code of Ethics to reflect the realities of today's collecting landscape. We also instituted "best practices" in our governing board by holding quarterly meetings and obtaining director and officer liability insurance.

One of the things I am most proud of was overseeing the transition of the publication of *The Keynoter* from longtime editor Robert Fratkin to Tom Peeling and his editorial team. They are doing a fantastic job and I hope you enjoy the variety and quality of the stories they present in each issue. Tom has been a good friend through the years and his support during my tenure was invaluable.

At this summer's APIC National Convention, I will officially hand the reins over to a new president – Tony Lee. Tony is a longtime collector and friend who has served the APIC in a variety of roles through the years. He will do an outstanding job. Good luck, Tony!

I look forward to seeing many of you soon at the 2024 APIC National Convention in Seven Springs, PA from Aug. 5-10. If you are an active APIC Member, you can still register online for the Convention on the APIC Website at apic.us. For more information, contact Convention Chair Jack Dixey at dixeycitylimits@yahoo.com.

The APIC is grateful to the businesses and individuals who advertise in the pages of *The Keynoter*. This publication is a great vehicle to advertise your products to the membership, and for collectors to reach out to their colleagues in search of special wants. The ad rate schedule is shown below. If you commit to buying ads for a full year (four consecutive issues), you will receive a 15-percent discount. For further information, please contact Darla Gonzalez at askdarlag@gmail.com.

Happy reading and stay safe.

Cary Jung, President, APIC

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THE KEYNOTER

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Seven years ago after seeing the total eclipse here in North Carolina partially obstructed by clouds, we noted that it would be going over Indianapolis in 2024. Our friends and APIC members David and Carol

Yount live there and invited us (or did we invite ourselves?) up to see it. So, back in early April, we got to see another eclipse, this time sans the clouds. What a spectacle it was.

But as a secondary treat, we spent three days with good friends and I got to see an amazing collection of political items. David will tell you that he collects TR and Lincoln, but his overall collection is just remarkable. There are no Nixon Now pins there. Oh, and did I mention his Huey Long, Henry Ford and William Randolph Hearst collections have to be the best assembled. And posters? Oh my, does he have the posters.

As a treat to our Keynoter readers, during the next year or so we'll have several articles that will feature items from David's collection. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did looking at them and photographing them

Tom Peeling, Keynoter Editor

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FRONT COVER--

Ritchie of Maryland and His 1932 Run

NEXT ISSUE-- Carter, Sadat, Begin and Peace at Camp David

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, or .jpg file to TRbuttons@aol.com. 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, JPEG or EPS files, preferably in Adobe Photoshop.*

If you don't have access to a scanner or high-resolution digital camera, you can take your items to graphic service bureaus, such as Kinko's, and have them scanned in the specification mentioned above. You can then send the file by e-mail or on a CD or DVD.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Your article (Spring 2024 Keynoter) on the passing of that very special man, Rex Stark, was informative and illuminating on a legendary icon of our hobby. Rex is someone whom I have known and absolutely admired for 35 years. I first met Rex combing the fields of our mutual state of Massachusetts and I talked with him at many shows ever since. When I was looking for an auctioneer for a New England APIC show, Rex gladly said that he would do it and truly excelled! He was always courteous,

knowledgeable, and friendly. His encyclopedic mind, his experienced intellect, and his true interest in the variety of people in the field was constantly evidenced. We have lost a giant in the political collecting arena -- an amazing person, and a statesman to us all!

-Bob Colt, APIC 8303

Letters to the Editor continued page 35.

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FDR's Part in Winning the War

By Jim Lowe, APIC 12582

"There is one front and one battle where everyone in the United States — every man, woman, and child — is in action, and will be privileged to remain in action throughout this war. That front is right here at home, in our daily lives, and in our daily tasks." — Franklin Roosevelt

Among the list of duties for a president is Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. While every president has faced that responsibility, only a handful have had to guide the nation through a declared war. That list is smaller when the president must also manage a complete mobilization at home. The best example of the aforementioned scenario took place during Franklin Roosevelt's third and fourth terms. A number of collectible artifacts related to Roosevelt and WWII allow collectors to better appreciate this difficult time in our nation's history.

One of the best pinback buttons to appear combined the rallying cry of "Remember Pearl Harbor" with the Roosevelt quote "We Will Win" around a graphic

image of the three leaders of the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy and Japan) being impaled by a bayonet. Two simple designs also among the classics feature a cutout image of FDR on a white background surrounded by simple messages. One features the text "Support Your Commander-in-Chief" and the other the war era slogans "V for Victory" and "Keep 'Em Flying." A rectangular rarity features a creative, caricatured design of Roosevelt with a superimposed "V" and the iconic ••• — with two of the dots representing his eyes. Hake's Auctions labels this large pin as ultra rare with only two known examples.

Another popular button design features images of Roosevelt with the other Allied leaders. The Big Three — which includes Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin — appear most often, but other buttons also exist that feature just FDR and Churchill. There are a number of these designs since they were produced in other Allied countries, including Australia; versions were made in both a two-tone brown and two-tone blue as well as a full-color variant. Among the more challenging to find is a pin commemorating the 1943 conference held in Casablanca between Churchill and Roosevelt. The Casablanca Conference was where several key strategic decisions were made, including calling for the unconditional surrender of the Axis powers, which is mentioned on the pin. It is a robust 1.75 inch compared to the other pins in this style.



The Australians also produced a cardboard pin that included not just the three Allied leaders mentioned above, but also included Chiang Kai-Shek. They were made for ANZAC Day (honoring the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) and are surprisingly easier to find compared to similar pins.



For those interested in larger 3-D items of the Allied leaders, there are some terrific items available. My favorite is a bell made with the faces of the Allied leaders cast in metal. The handle has a "V." The metal used to cast these came from German planes shot down over England, and proceeds went to the RAF (Royal Air Force) benevolent fund. It should be noted that aircraft metal does not make a pleasant tone for a bell. The same fund issued a similar but much scarcer ashtray.

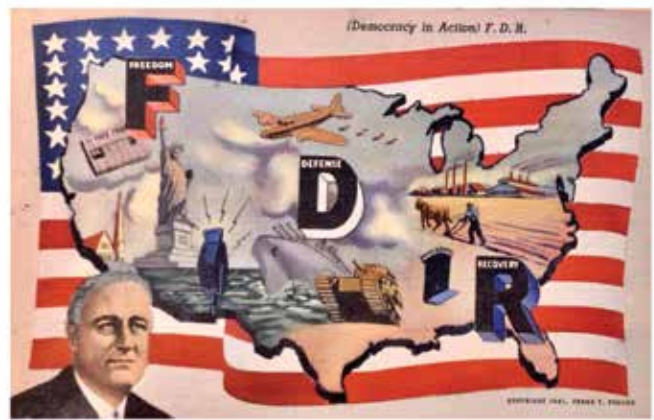
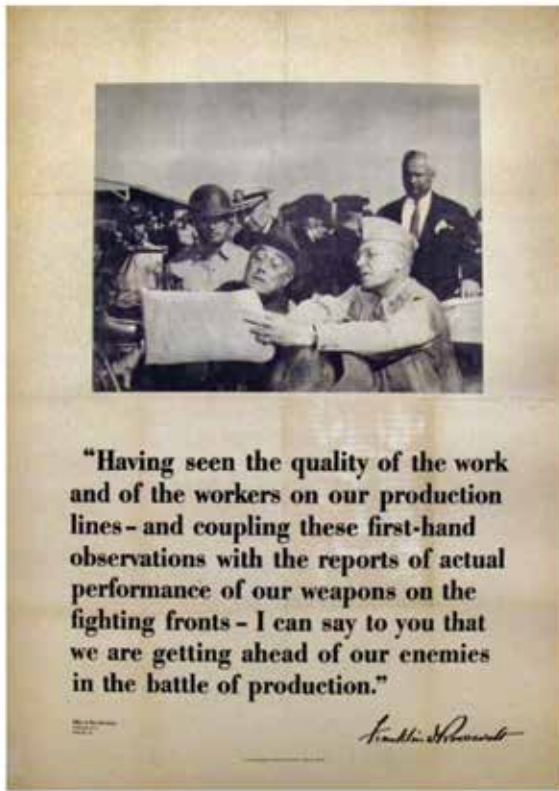
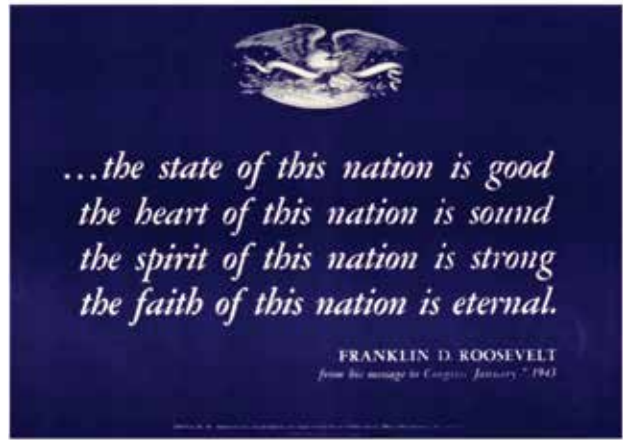
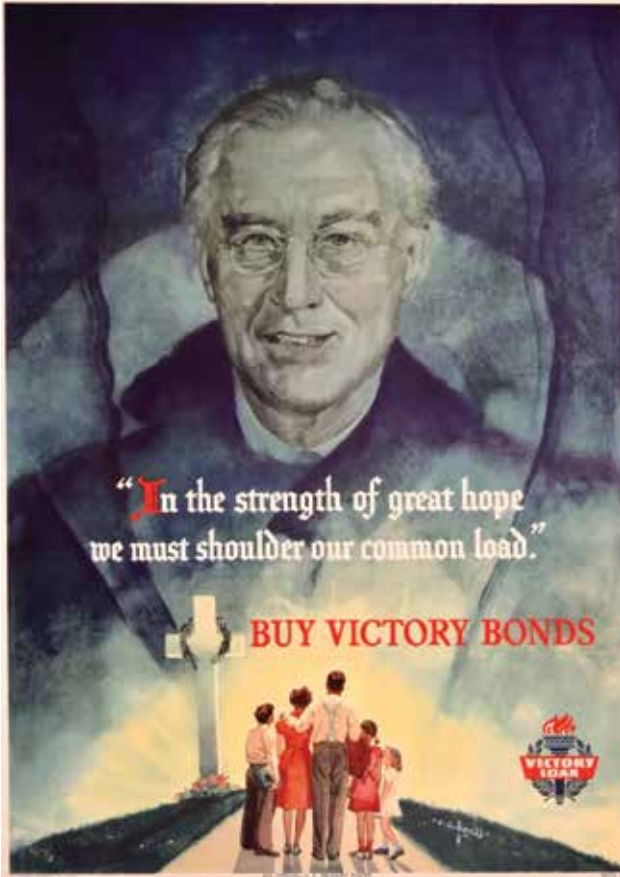
Another great item was made by the Raynor Co. of Rhode Island, which issued a set of 8-inch figures. They are suited very well for display and were based on the image of the three leaders from the Yalta Conference.

If space is limited, celluloid matchbook holders made in Great Britain might fit well into one's collection. They typically feature the three leaders on one side and their countries' flags on the other, though there is also a variant that includes Allied generals on the reverse with a nice depiction of Eisenhower.

Poster collectors can find a plethora of both designs and sizes with Roosevelt since large numbers of propaganda posters were created to encourage Americans to do their part. Both government-made and privately produced posters occasionally used Roosevelt's image or his words in the same way they were used during the Great Depression: to give Americans hope. The government's Office of War Information created two posters that prominently featured Roosevelt quotes about the war (OWI No. 13 and OWI No. 40). They are, however, not very aesthetically appealing for display. Conversely, the OWI issued four posters with the artwork of Norman Rockwell illustrating Roosevelt's famous Four Freedoms. A poster was issued of each (OWI Nos. 43–46) as well as a single poster with all four (OWI No. 47). These posters were issued in a variety of sizes with the most common being 20 x 28 inches.

The Treasury Department also used Roosevelt's image and words to encourage war bond sales. C.C. Beall, a well-known American illustrator, created the last poster using FDR in 1945. It advocated buying Victory Bonds with a quote from a 1932 speech: "In the strength of great hope, we must all shoulder our common load."





One of the most vibrant posters, and one with an eye-catching size, is the General Motors poster featuring Roosevelt in front of the American flag with the quote “Lost ground can always be regained – but lost time never.”

The election of 1944 was the first time a president had to campaign for re-election while the U.S. was fighting a war since Abraham Lincoln did so in 1864, and the war had an impact on the campaign. Because of wartime shortages and government restrictions, there were considerably fewer items made for the 1944 campaign – especially compared to Roosevelt's other three presidential campaigns, and especially when compared to the 1940 campaign. The quality of supplies available was also impacted by the demand for war materials. For example, lithographed pins made during the war are very susceptible to scratching and paint loss due to lower quality production. Even the pressure from extended contact with the glass top of a Riker case can result in paint loss. One perk, however, is that these factors and Roosevelt's selection of Harry Truman as a new running mate makes identifying the 1944 campaign items a bit easier compared to FDR's previous campaigns.



Several 1944 campaign pins feature the popular “V” for Victory symbol, including the often seen black and white design of Roosevelt's portrait with the text “For President Franklin D. Roosevelt” accompanied by the double morse code Victory symbols with stars. This pin appears in 1.25 inch, 1.75 inch and 2 ½ inch versions.

The best example of the limitations caused by wartime regulations can be seen in a cardboard pin that is red, white and blue with the names of Roosevelt and Truman. This simple design epitomizes the impact on production of non-essential goods during the war.

Most of the Roosevelt-Truman items do not specifically reference the war—with the exception of a great design that doesn't feature the candidates but instead features an eagle and shield with drawings of a soldier, sailor, marine and pilot. Another pin that is a great example of the combination of a campaign pin with the homefront theme is the 1.25 inch blue pin with white letters that reads “100% with Franklin D. Roosevelt.”



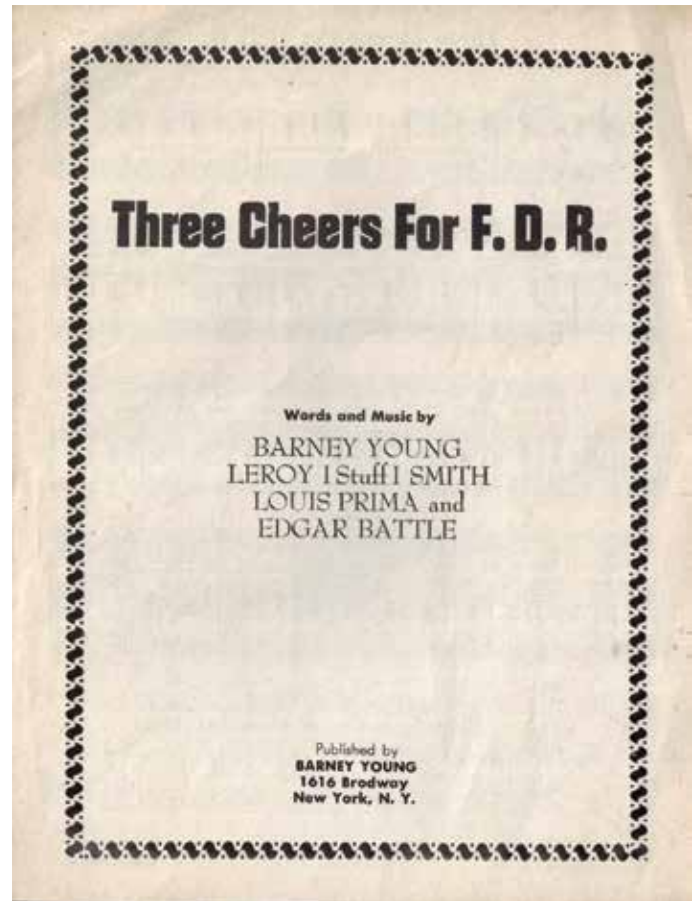
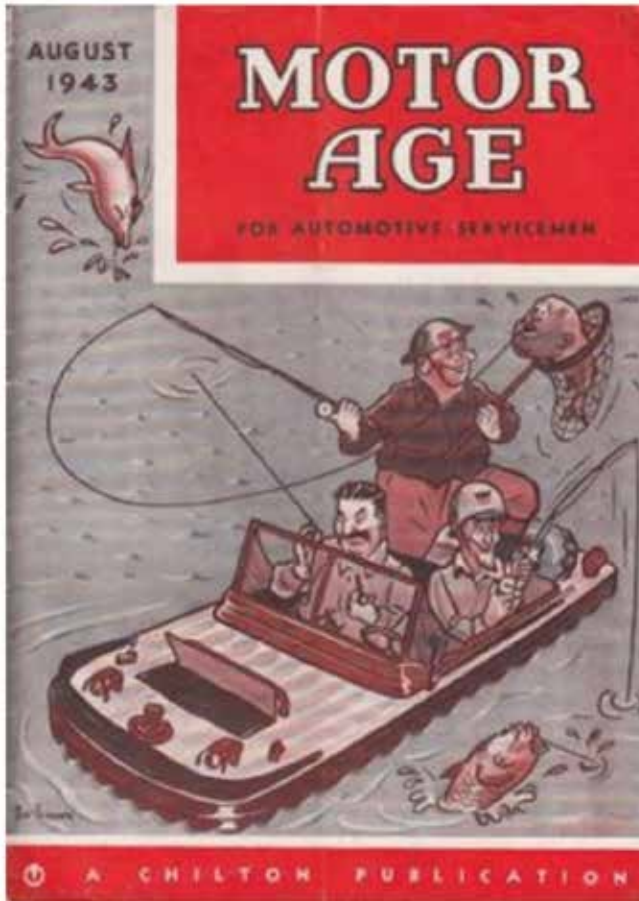
This striking design features a large patriotic “V” over the text. It is among the rare WWII FDR items.

There are campaign posters, too, that feature war-related themes, and among them is one that classically features FDR and a future President, Lyndon Johnson, when Johnson was campaigning for the Senate in a 1941 special election. Even though the campaign and election was prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, the slogan “Roosevelt, Unity and Defense” shows the degree to which events in Europe and Asia were impacting Americans.

Paper items featuring Roosevelt with war-related images and themes appear in a variety of formats, from magazine covers to postal covers and from sheet music to postcards. While the majority of postcards made during WWII used Uncle Sam to represent the United States, there are some creative designs featuring the 32nd President. Arthur Szyk created a set of six postcards for Esquire magazine featuring his distinct artwork. The most colorful card titled “Some Necks” features the Big Three and miniature Axis figures held by a noose around their necks. Roosevelt appears as a cowboy and flashes the “V” for Victory symbol. Another artistic design features a cartoon-like image of FDR giving Hitler a spanking. Similar to the imagery used on pins, there are also a number of postcards that feature Roosevelt with Stalin and Churchill but also designs featuring other Allied leaders, particularly lesser-known leaders, such as Canadian Prime Minister MacKenzie King.

Another popular paper item that appealed to the 15 million families with men and women in uniform were images of the president and then a place to add a photo of their loved one. Portrait images can also be found on the covers of most of the popular magazines of the era, including *Life*, *Time*, *Liberty* and *Newsweek*, but the smaller circulation, lesser-known publications produced some great images as well. *Motor Age* used cartoon images on their covers, and one of the best was the August 1943 edition featuring FDR, Churchill and Stalin in a fishing boat reeling in the three Axis leaders.



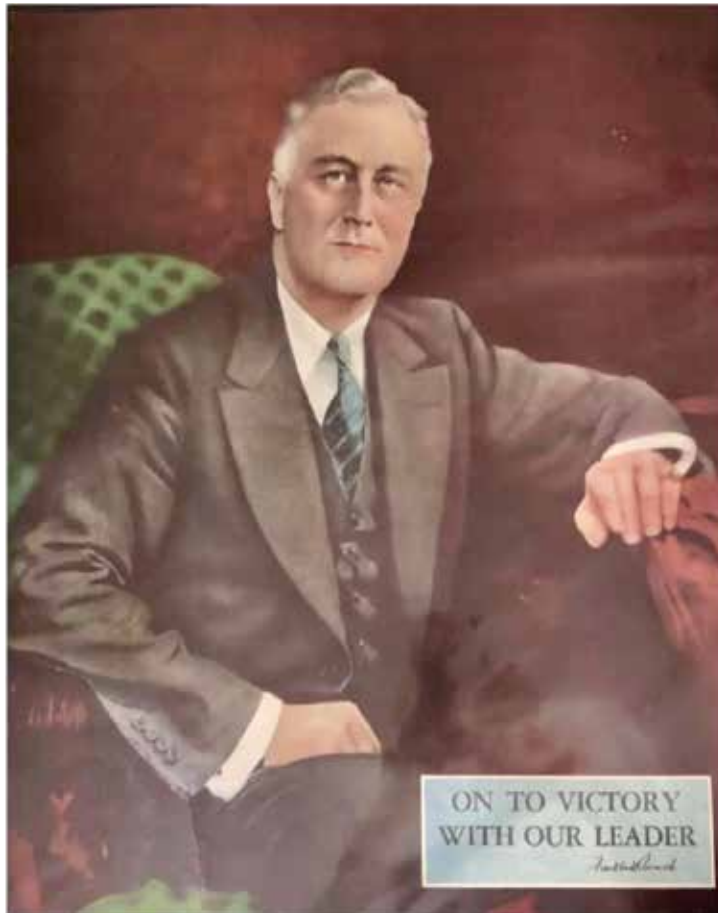


In sheet music, the 1942 song *Three Cheers for F.D.R.* is the ideal combination of lyrics that sound like a campaign song and a patriotic anthem, including this line: “He’s a bright and shining star and he’ll show those gangsters who we are.”

A final paper item that is memorable also evinces Roosevelt’s popularity as Commander-in-Chief. It is a large decal that features only his initials fronting admirable traits he embodied: Fearlessness, Determination and Resourcefulness.

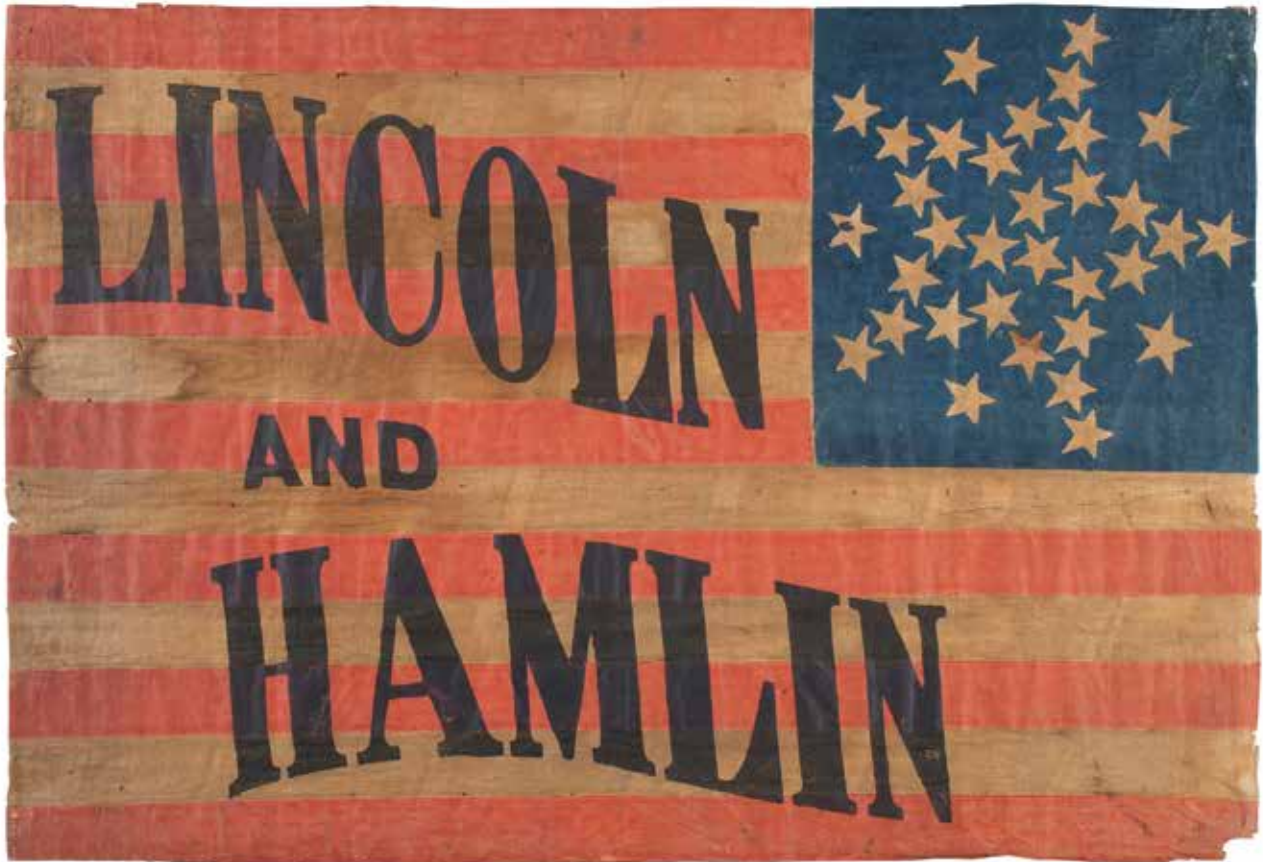
Many Homefront collectors consider 3-D items the keystones of their collection, and one of the best items epitomizes the president’s quote at the start of this article emphasizing every citizen taking the battle to the enemy, even if only symbolically. This item is a 3-D manipulative featuring the president and Churchill on one side and Kai-Shek and Stalin on the other; on one side they are hammering Hitler and on the other a stereotypical image of a Japanese soldier. It allows the holder to slide the lever left and right, controlling the hammers that slam into these Axis symbols.





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MY THREE FAVORITE FINDS

Finding Politicals in New England

By Becky Peeling, Keynoter Associate Editor

Mike Dunham shares a story that is relatable to many collectors. In his youth, Dunham was visiting the Humphrey campaign office in New Jersey on Halloween. While the others were excited by candy, he was more interested in the campaign buttons.

Dunham started collecting at age 8 after John F. Kennedy's assassination. His parents, who were antique collectors, encouraged him and his brother to pursue their collections that also included sports buttons. He visited Johnson and Goldwater campaign offices to get pins in 1964. While he was in high school, he subscribed to *The Political Collector* and joined the National Political Button Exchange.

"My father knew a guy in New Jersey who was in sales," Dunham recalls. "I walked into his house and I saw my first political button room."

Collecting was paused for several years from 1977 to 1983, though he didn't sell the items he had. One of his favorite finds dates back to Dunham's early years as a collector. The Robert Kennedy "Return to Greatness" pin was acquired in a 1974 trade and is from the Indiana primary.

"It was good back then and now is highly prized," Dunham says.

After moving to New England and returning to active collecting, he joined APIC and has attended every APIC National since 1993, apart from one West Coast event. He attends many of the regional shows in Connecticut and Pennsylvania, and is active co-chairing the New England regional show as he serves as chapter vice president.

His collection includes Massachusetts locals and a variety of candidates dating back to 1840. There are a few suffrage pieces in his collection, including another favorite – the suffrage bird that he bought from a New England collector at a show several years ago. The owner sold the interesting item at her original cost as she had found a 'better' one. Dunham had admired the bird for some time and was delighted to be able to add it to his collection.





Living just west of Boston, Dunham attended several political events held in the city. He had the opportunity to meet candidate and former astronaut John Glenn during the 1984 presidential campaign. He also attended six national conventions of both major parties,

beginning with the 1976 Republican convention in New York City.

Massachusetts is also home to the well-known Brimfield Flea Market. That is where Dunham acquired the TR “Let Well Enough Alone” pin. Dunham and his friend, Corrine, were at the famous market when she spotted the TR with two other pins that were priced as a group for \$20.

“When she told me she found it, my eyes got as big as softballs,” Dunham recalls. “Oh my God, that is really good.”

The good find became a great find, once he cleaned the dust off and saw that the pin was in mint condition.

“It is really neat and rare to find such a great pin when I have spent days looking and found nothing,” he says.



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KENTUCKY OF 1899:

Two Governors, Two Legislatures, Two Militias

By John Hester, APIC 9068

Sometime after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against him on May 21, 1900, William Sylvester Taylor found himself in Indianapolis, IN, fleeing an indictment in his native Kentucky. Just months before the court ruling, Taylor had been inaugurated on Dec. 12, 1899, in Frankfort as the 33rd Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and served as governor approximately 160 days of which only 50 were considered valid.

Taylor, born in a log cabin in Morgantown, KY, did not attend school until age 15, would rise to teach school, became a lawyer, operate a farm, support the Greenback Party and then as a Republican he was elected in succession to county clerk, county judge and ultimately elected as the Attorney General of Kentucky. Now he was on the run and would basically live the rest of his life in exile, rarely returning to his Kentucky home. What had gone wrong?

The years from 1890 to 1900, as chronicled in Tapp and Klotter’s seminal book *Kentucky: Decades of Discord 1865-1900*, found Kentucky to be a state of red-hot political conflict. William O’Connell Bradley had been elected as Kentucky’s first Republican Governor in 1895 and had to deal with the Kentucky Toll-Gate Wars. Some Kentuckians upset with road tolls burned toll houses. Across portions of the state, “regulators” had become the local law, often in defiance of the Frankfort government.

As 1899 arrived, Democrats were thought to be in an advantageous position to reclaim the governor’s office. William Goebel, born of German

immigrant parents, had become a successful lawyer and risen quickly within the Democratic Party. In

1899, despite being only 43 years old, by many accounts socially awkward, not politically connected by birth and a weak orator, Goebel was already a powerful figure. He was elected to the Kentucky Senate, became Senate president pro tempore



and leader of a younger faction of Democrats. Taking on the powerful Kentucky railroads and supporting free silver, Goebel was a polarizing figure within and outside the Democratic Party. He was often disliked but was also admired for his ability to get governmental and political results.

In 1898, Goebel developed and got the legislature to pass an election law that became known as "Goebel's Law." Goebel and other Democrats believed that Republican election fraud had denied William Jennings Bryan 12 of Kentucky's 13 electoral votes in 1896. In that election, Democrats and Populists had a fusion agreement, but Bryan lost the Kentucky popular vote by a mere 277 votes or roughly by a margin of .06 percent.

Prior to Goebel's Law, Kentucky elections were controlled locally by county election boards consisting of the county judge, sheriff and clerk, who would send election results to Frankfort. Each party had their areas of the state that they controlled. The new law passed by Goebel created a more centralized system whereby a three-person state election board, appointed by the Democratic controlled legislature, appointed local election boards who in turn appointed officers for each poll.

Goebel, popular among many Democrats because of his election bill and his populist attacks on railroads (especially the L&N), sought the Democratic nomination at the 1899 convention beginning June 20 at the Louisville Music Center. His opponents were William Johnson Stone, former U.S. Congressman and Parker "Wat" Hardin, the unsuccessful Democratic nominee for governor in 1895. All three candidates had substantial support and the proceedings were contentious to the point that police were brought into the Hall.





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Needing 547 delegate votes to win, a deadlock persisted and on the 21st ballot the results were Stone 398, Hardin 355 and Goebel 328. A resolution was passed by the body, that if there was no winner after the 25th ballot, the lowest candidate would be dropped and the winner decided on the 26th ballot. On the 25th ballot, Stone was dropped and Goebel won on the 26th ballot 561.5 votes to Hardin's 529.5. Goebel was persuaded to accept 29-year-old J.C.W. Beckham as his lieutenant governor. Party unity was in jeopardy with several Democratic newspapers reluctant to support the ticket.

Republicans convened on July 12, 1899, in Lexington to choose their nominee amid renewed optimism given the division within the Democratic Party ranks. William Taylor had considerable support, but sitting Gov. Bradley wanted another candidate nominated and when his choice seemed to be rejected, Bradley refused to attend the convention. African-American leaders also threatened to not attend because they saw Taylor as the choice of the "lily white" faction of the party. Taylor skillfully worked to avoid their possible defection and won the nomination.

By August 1899, disaffected Kentucky Democrats, angered by the events at the Music Hall, an exposed deal between Goebel and Stone and the very narrow victory of Goebel, began to organize a Convention of their own. They obtained a commitment from former U.S. Representative and former Kentucky Gov. John Y. Brown to head their ticket. Convening in Lexington on Aug. 16, 1899, the "Honest Democrats" or "Brownies" would nominate Brown as governor and Phillip Preston Johnston as lieutenant governor to, in their view, restore the dignity of the Kentucky Democratic Party.

As the candidates took to the field to campaign, each found old political alliances fraying. Confederate Kentucky Democrats were furious with Goebel's 1895 killing of Ex-Confederate Colonel John L. Sanford in Covington, KY. Sanford's bank lost money because of Goebel's efforts to remove road tolls in the area. Also, Goebel had recently written an article in a local paper referring to Sanford as "Gonorrhoea Sanford." The two met on the streets of Covington, shots were fired by both and Sanford was killed. Goebel, charged with murder, was acquitted, but in 1899 Confederate veterans had not forgotten and threatened to deny Goebel their support.

The Populists of Eastern Kentucky approved of Goebel taking on the railroads but would not fuse with Democrats and nominated their own candidate. As Goebel watched his coalition deteriorate, he called on the Great Commoner, William Jennings Bryan, for assistance. Goebel, along with Brown, supported Bryan and wanted his support. Bryan, looking toward 1900, while initially reluctant, campaigned in Kentucky for Goebel. The two made multiple speeches each of three days, campaigning together across the state in front of what was estimated to be 150,000 Kentuckians.

Taylor had his own problems holding together his coalition. Goebel had support among voting African-Americans because he appeared somewhat different from previous Democratic candidates on issues such as accommodations on train coaches. Taylor eventually got help with African-American leaders from Gov. Bradley. Both Republicans and Honest



Democrats would run against what they would call “Goebelism.” To some this meant disagreement with policies (centralization of voting oversight) but for others was a genuine personal dislike of Goebel.

As election day approached, there appeared to be volatility in the vote and the outcome seemed uncertain. Despite a contentious campaign, there were minimal reports of violence at the ballot box on election day. But immediately the results were close and the count questioned. Republicans seemed to own a small lead. Democrats wanted ballots that had Taylor’s initials as W.P. instead of the correct W.S. thrown out. In other counties Democrats sought to disqualify votes on very thin paper, such that the paper marks could be seen through to the other side. Some Democrats believed the entire Louisville vote (a 3,000 vote advantage for Taylor) should not be counted because of militia intimidation at the polls. As stated by the respected authors Tapp and Klotter in *Kentucky: Decades of Discord 1865-1900*, “Actually, both Republicans and Democrats could argue persuasively that their candidate had been deprived of votes through fraud. Both would be correct.”

There were voices for a peaceful end to the election. Some Democratic newspapers urged support for Taylor, if it was ruled that he had won, yet others, remembering the 1876 presidential campaign, were defiant. As small groups of armed Republicans arrived in Frankfurt, the Kentucky three-person Election Board (Goebel’s Law) prepared to meet and declare the vote. Surprisingly, the 2-1 ruling certified Taylor’s election. However, the ruling was limited in that the board stated their inability to hear witnesses and declared only the legislature had that power. Their announced vote was Taylor 193,714, Goebel 191,331, Brown 12,140 and Populist Blair 2,936. On Dec. 12, 1889, Taylor was inaugurated.

Democrats controlled both houses of the legislature, and a process began to choose a joint committee to decide the election. Both Democrats and Republican legislators’ names were placed in a box, the box shaken and 11 names were called. Given the number of Republicans in the House and Senate, chance would have predicted 4-5 Republican names would have been called, but only one was called.

The committee heard evidence and on Jan. 29, 1900, closing arguments were heard, with a decision to be announced in a few days.

On Jan. 30, 1900, in Frankfurt, State Sen. William Goebel, with two associates, was taking his daily route from the Capitol Hotel to the senate chamber. As they approached the fountain near the capitol building, shots rang out and Goebel fell to the ground. Soon doctors were attending to Goebel and there was chaos in the streets.



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The joint legislative committee to decide the election met seven hours after the shooting and rendered the decision that Goebel and Beckham received the highest number of votes and had been elected. No revised vote count was provided. An hour after the decision, Gov. Taylor declared a state of insurrection, ordered the general assembly to adjourn and reconvene in London, KY, a Republican stronghold.

The next day Republicans followed the order, but Democrats stayed in Frankfurt, where militia barred them from convening at the capital. So, Democratic legislators convened at the Capitol Hotel and certified Goebel the winner. Goebel was soon inaugurated by the Kentucky Chief Justice. On Feb. 3, 1900, Goebel died and became the first and only governor to die in office by assassination. Republicans now not only faced a Democrat legislative majority but also a martyr. On that same day, Goebel's Lt. Gov. Beckham, age 29, was inaugurated by the Democrats. The words of James C. Klotter in the book *Kentucky Governors* best sums up Kentucky's plight at that moment, "Two legislatures, two governors, and two militias vied for power and civil war seemed possible."

Both sides attempted to rule, eventually each sued the other and Republicans and Democrats agreed to consolidate all the suits and to abide by the courts' decision. A circuit court and eventually the Kentucky Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Beckham. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled they would not take up the case and as a result, Beckham was governor. In the Fall of 1900, Beckham narrowly won the Special Election over John W. Yerkes to complete Goebel's unexpired term.

Eventually 16 people would be indicted in the murder of William Goebel and three would be convicted and would serve time in prison. Eventually all those convicted would be pardoned or paroled. To this day the events of Jan. 30 in Frankfurt remain murky and unresolved.

These are the events that resulted in William S. Taylor being indicted and leaving Kentucky to settle in Indiana after briefly serving as Governor of Kentucky. Several attempts were made to extradite him to stand trial in Kentucky, but Republican Indiana governors would not allow it. Klotter's chapter on Taylor in *Kentucky Governors* reports that there was at least one failed attempt in 1901 to abduct him.



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Later, Fred Warren, the Kansas editor of the Socialist publication *Appeal to Reason* offered a \$1,000 reward to anyone willing to abduct Taylor and return him to Kentucky. Warren was outraged about the extradition of Socialists Haywood, Moyer and Pettibone from Colorado to Idaho to stand trial for the murder of former Idaho Gov. Steunenberg in the growing conflict between mine owners and labor.

In addition to living in constant fear of being abducted and returned to Kentucky, Taylor soon after arriving in Indiana, experienced the death of his wife. Gov. Willison pardoned him in 1909. Eventually he rebuilt his life, remarrying and becoming counsel and vice-president of Empire Life and Accident Co.

This era in Kentucky politics would have repercussions in the state for decades. Kentucky was not alone, as it was a tumultuous era for America. On Nov. 10, 1898, Wilmington, NC, experienced the Wilmington Massacre, where white supremacists removed a duly elected, biracial, fusionist government. The Colorado Mine Wars would soon follow in the early 1900s as labor expressed its dissatisfaction with working conditions. A Civil War had been fought but as America entered a new century, a still young and more urban United States grappled with democracy and how to resolve many of its lingering tensions as Reconstruction ended and the country entered the 20th Century.





Comrade Fred Warren

SOCIALIST EDITOR WHO WAS
CONVICTED AND SENTENCED
BY A FEDERAL COURT, U. S. A.

“**I**N conclusion, permit me to say that I am not asking the mercy or leniency of this court. I have committed no crime and there is festering in my conscience no accusation of guilt, but if my conviction and punishment will serve to rivet public attention upon the abuses which I have tried to point out, then I shall feel that I have not suffered this humiliation in vain.

“After all, this is the price of human progress. Why should I expect immunity? The courts have ever been and are to-day the bulwarks of the ruling class. Why should they not punish offenders against that class?”

This is an extract from Warren's speech before the Federal Court, the full text of which will be found in *The Fighting Editor*, a cloth-bound volume of over 200 pages by George D. Brewer. Price 50 cents, postpaid.

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APIC MEMBER PROFILE:

Jim Lowe, APIC 12582

By Adam Gottlieb, APIC 4864

As collectors of political history, APIC members are often considered informal educators of our nation's history. But when a member's chosen career is actually education, it reinforces how historical memorabilia can be used as learning tools for students.

Until he retired this past year, Jim Lowe taught U.S. history for 34 years at the Altoona Area High School in Pennsylvania. Lowe also taught American and Comparative Government, AP Micro and Macro Economics, and was responsible for developing the school's Honors Program in American history. Lowe attended the same high school where he taught.

"I worked as a teacher only in Altoona. In fact, I went to high school in Altoona and came back after I graduated college. Without having my own children, education has been the focus of my life," Lowe said.

Now in retirement, Lowe is the Chairman of the Blair County Historical Society.

Lowe, 56, earned accolades for his many years of teaching. He received the President's Award from Pennsylvania Council of Social Studies, Altoona Teacher of the Year (CARE Award), the Paul Harris Fellow Award, and Pennsylvania History Teacher of the Year from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Lowe discovered the APIC while shopping for buttons at an antique store in the early 1990s and he saw APIC brochures on the counter. One thing led to another, and Hal Ottaway invited him to attend the APIC show in Canton, Ohio.

"Hal's friendship has been enduring and I appreciate his kindness in reaching out to me," he said.

The APIC means a great deal to Lowe.

"Having an APIC membership helps in terms of collecting tips and historical information as well as affordably building their collection and avoiding reproductions," Lowe said.

Lowe said he probably started collecting Americana and memorabilia before he realized he was collecting.

"I've been interested in history as long as I can remember. My parents were always supportive of me collecting. They brought me sample ballots from polling places to encourage me to vote when I was able to register. I kept them because I thought they were cool."



When he turned 18, his parents bought him an FDR clock for his collection.

Lowe's extensive collection is focused on Home Front items, with an emphasis on World War II. Using items from his collection as visual aids, Lowe said it helped countless students understand and appreciate America's story.

"Having students recognize the importance of history and our nation's heritage is one of the things I stressed in the classroom," Lowe said. "I was always delighted when a parent would tell me their son or daughter referred to my class as 'the museum class.' As a teacher of American history, I tried to have an artifact for every lesson. I was fortunate my course was modern American history and covered the 20th century."

When asked what he considers Home Front material, Lowe said any tangible item made when America was at war in support of the war effort.

Given the sheer volume of material produced, Lowe considers Home Front items from World War II to be the "golden age" of memorabilia. In 1991, two books ("*V for Victory and To Win the War: America's Home Front during World War II*" by Stan Cohen) put him on the path to collecting Home Front memorabilia.

"I was struck by the remarkable effort civilians did at home to support the war," he said, such as Victory Gardens, scrap metal and rubber drives, and selling war bonds.

His first purchased item was a cacheted envelope of Uncle Sam, crushing enemy leaders.

His best bargain find? A complete and unused World War II "blackout kit" with instructions for an unbelievable price: \$1. These glow-in-the-dark decals were used (and ultimately discarded) in America's homes (mostly on coastal states) to help people find doorknobs, light switches, water faucets, etc. without turning on lights. Wartime in America required citywide blackouts to prevent the enemy from identifying cities from the air. This simple item shows how seriously America was concerned about potential enemy aerial bombardment and invasion.

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When asked about the overtones of anti-Axis materials, Lowe explained dehumanization of the enemy was an accepted part of propaganda during World War II.

"This is not how we view people today," Lowe said.

German, Italian, and Japanese leaders were often depicted as skunks, snakes, pigs and vultures. In efforts to mock the Axis leaders, caricatures often exaggerated them as a form of ridicule (Even Donald Duck got into the act with *Der Fuehrer's Face*). To the Home Front population, these anti-Axis items might have provided a chuckle when the newspapers and newsreels offered grim news from the European and Pacific battlefields.

Hitler, for example, was comically portrayed on bowling pins, ashtrays, and other everyday items. A pin cushion ("Hotzi Notzi") depicting Hitler bending over – with his backside exposed as the location for pins, was a comic (and collectible) example of how the Home Front poked fun at the Nazi dictator. It was such a popular item that FDR had one on his desk in the White House.

Lowe explains collecting Americana to his colleagues by saying, "I wrote some professional development books on effectively using artifacts in the classroom for my school colleagues. They were intended to reduce/eliminate the reliance on textbooks and getting students interested in hands-on history. My basic activity involving artifacts was titled '*You Be the Historian.*' At the beginning of the year, I posed questions to use when examining artifacts and eventually they learned questions to ask. As a result, colleagues asked to borrow artifacts to use in their own teaching."

Because Lowe has so many different and varied types of Home Front items, his collection is organized and displayed by type and theme. Buttons, pins, postcards, 3-D items, paper ephemera are stored in binders. Posters are either professionally framed or in plastic sleeves. One item he has yet to acquire is a specific anti-Hitler ashtray shaped as a toilet bowl which has proven surprisingly elusive.

"While I am disappointed to lose a Home Front item at auction, I am kind of encouraged since it indicates the growth of Home Front collectors," he said.

Lowe is excited to be this year's APIC National Convention keynote speaker.

"I hope attendees learn how exciting Home Front collecting is as well as the wide variety of items out there. The Home Front is the ultimate campaign. Unlike examining election years or candidates or issues (i.e. Prohibition) where collectors can be on either side of the issue, nobody sides against winning the war," Lowe said.

Lowe mentioned something more important than preserving the past. He spoke about preserving the future; specifically, his future.

Lowe is a two-time organ transplant recipient. In 1997, he received a kidney and pancreas from an organ donor. Since kidneys can break down over time, in 2018, he needed to replace the failing organ.

"I literally received the gift of life," Lowe said. "But the second time I was lucky and blessed to receive a kidney from Jennifer, my wife of 20 years."

His wife's kidney was a perfect match and now Jim Lowe's future is bright.

"Every day is a gift," Lowe said.

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TRUTH BE TOLD

Cleveland Isn't Always Grover

By David Holcomb, APIC 5993

For this column I want to focus on two Cleveland pieces. The first is a stickpin and it appears in the revised DeWitt book by Sullivan as GC 1892-31. It is a handsome piece, and it shows up from time to time as a Grover Cleveland political piece for sale. It is from about 1895 to 1915 and it is not a political piece but an advertising piece for Cleveland Cycles produced by the Pope Manufacturing Company.

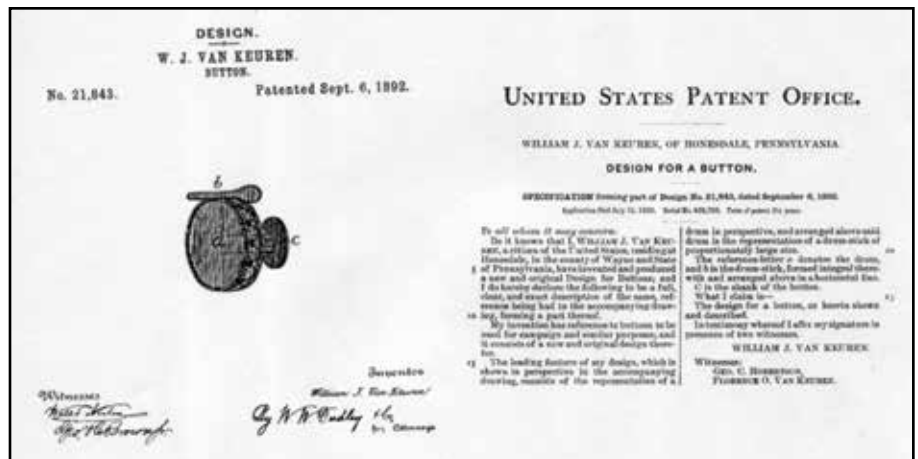
The stickpin gets its design from the Cleveland Cycles trademark symbol. The same design can be found on the front piece of their bicycles. An example of the bike is shown here along with an advertising sign for the company and an ad for the manufacturer. Like the "Bicycle Bug" stickpin reported on in the Spring 2022 Keynoter, they make great bicycle collectables, but unfortunately they are misattributed when they are claimed to be political.



to sort our treasures by campaign and this wonderful little stud is easily dated to the 1892 campaign. Many may have it in their 1888 frames because DeWitt listed it as GC 1888-42. I am not sure why DeWitt included it in 1888 but the cut off for his book was that election. He may have just liked it so much he forgot that it was from the later campaign.

However, he was aware that it was from 1892 because in 1936 DeWitt produced one of his first displays and in a newspaper account, he informed the reporter that this piece was from 1892.

The second piece is a great Grover Cleveland stud. Having run for the presidency three times, there is a wealth of Cleveland items available to collect. Many of us like



The design was patented on Sept. 6, 1892, by William J. Van Keuren. William was a watchmaker and jeweler in Honesdale, PA. The design of a drum and drumstick, when finished, incorporated the title of a very popular song of the day "TA-RA-RA Boom De Ay" and the words "Cleveland he has come to stay."

Those not familiar with the song might be more familiar with the music as it became the theme music for the Howdy Doody show. Van Keuren had the pieces made in Attleboro, MA, and sold them for 15 cents. They were originally silver washed very lightly and over the years the silver has oxidized away on every example that I have seen. It is a fun piece.



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Cleveland Bicycles

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The 1910 Cleveland models include Chainless Bicycles at \$100 and \$75; the Cleveland Swell Special at \$50; the Cleveland Cushion Frame Chain Machine at \$50; Standard Chain Roadsters at \$40; the Pope Daily Service at \$40; the Westfield Two-Piece Crank Roadsters at \$30; and Boys' and Girls' Juveniles.

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One Day in Bismarck

By David Holcomb, APIC 5993

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt toured 25 western states in what was called the "Great Loop Tour." Traveling by train, the tour took nine weeks and covered more than 14,000 miles. About six weeks were for public appearances. During those appearances he delivered 263 speeches. The most prominent stops were visits to Yellowstone National Park with naturalist John Burroughs and Yosemite National Park with John Muir. Of course there were many short stops along the way.

On April 7, 1903, the president's train made stops in North Dakota at Castleton, Tower, Valley City, Dawson, Dickinson, Medora, Fargo, Jamestown and Bismarck.

Stops would range from just a few minutes to up to an hour. In Bismarck, which this button is a souvenir from, the presidential visit lasted for an hour.

The town had been excited about the visit for several days and the crowd grew in the days leading up to the arrival of the president. A large contingent of Sioux, Gros Ventre, and Cree American Indians had also traveled to Bismarck to see and greet the president. Accompanying the more than 200 Indians were prominent Chiefs Rain-in-the-Face, the Sioux chief who is credited with having killed Custer; Red Tomahawk, who killed Sitting Bull in the 90s; Red Fish, Black Bull, Standing Bear, Crow Ghost, Cross Bear and others.

As the president's train pulled into the station at 4:40 p.m., the president could see three very large portraits of himself on three sides of the station. One was of him at his ranch in North Dakota, another at San Juan, and the third at the White House.

The president was then escorted to the state capital where he was greeted by Gov. Frank White. It was there that he was also greeted by the many chiefs of the different tribes. Making the presentation for the tribes was John Grass, the Chief Justice for the Sioux. He presented the president with a written address "testifying to their faith in him and their approval of his official acts in the interests of the Indians." They also presented TR with a ceremonial peace pipe. Chief Grass remarked "We have been treated well by the Great Father and we hope he will again be great father."



At the barbeque in Bismarck. [Source: truwestmagazine.com]

The colonel stepped out onto the balcony of the capital and delivered a short speech to the 2,000 or more who had come to get a glimpse of the president. It is reported that his remarks included "I am an old settler of this state. I lived here twenty years ago and feel that I am an old timer. I know the people of the West. There are two ways to know a man: by working with him or fighting with him and I have worked with whom I have fought." He went on to compliment the veterans of the Civil War and the Philippine War who were in the crowd.

On the way back to the train station, the president's party stopped off at a barbecue where Teddy was treated to a "huge sandwich of roast beef and rye bread, which he ate with genuine relish." TR said "Gentlemen you have put a cap sheaf of enjoyment on my trip so far. I know so many of you here, and it seems good to breathe this free western air again. I cannot thank you too much for the pleasure you have given me." With that the party was back on the train and on to the next stop.

In 1973, 91-year-old Charles Borden was interviewed in the Vincennes Sun-Commercial and reminisced about being in Bismarck that day. He remembered arriving the day before and finding the town "filled with Indians." "That was a sight I'll never forget, those Indians didn't even try to stay in the parade; they ran back and forth along the line of march, yelling and waving long poles bearing flags of peace. Teddy Roosevelt didn't seem to mind at all, he would reach out and shake hands with an Indian as he approached the coach and they all seemed to think he was a great fellow. It was an experience that could happen but once in a man's lifetime and one I'm glad I had."

Editor's note: This is one of an occasional series of articles on one-day-event political items.



Albert C. Ritchie, a 1932 Contender

By David Quintin, APIC 2776

On June 23, 1932, Albert C. Ritchie, Democratic governor of Maryland, departed the Mt. Royal Railroad Station in Baltimore for the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. More than 80,000 supporters had gathered to support his bid for the Democratic nomination for president.

Ritchie had been elected governor in 1919 and was now in his fourth term, having been re-elected in 1930.

Ritchie was born to relatively distinguished parents in 1876. His father was a member of the Maryland Constitutional Convention in 1867, professor of law at the University of Maryland, city solicitor of Baltimore and a judge for the Supreme Bench of Baltimore. His mother was a granddaughter of William H. Cabell who had served as a governor of Virginia.

He received his law degree in 1898 and entered into practice with a law firm in 1900. In 1903 he formed his own law practice. In 1907 he married; however, in 1916 his wife filed for divorce and Ritchie never remarried, nor did he have any children.

Ritchie was a strong opponent of the Eighteenth Amendment, which established Prohibition, and a staunch advocate of states rights. Four years earlier he had withdrawn from the presidential race and seconded Al Smith's nomination at the Democratic Convention.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt had won the majority of the Democratic primary vote, 44.5 percent, leading up to the 1932 Democratic Convention. He had carried eleven of the thirteen states where his name was on the ballot. Even though he was closing in on a majority of Democratic delegates, he was well short of the required two-thirds vote. This left an opening for a wide field of hopefuls including Al Smith, John Nance Garner, George White of Ohio, Harry F. Byrd of Virginia, Melvin Traylor of Illinois, James A. Reed of Missouri, William H. "Alfalfa Bill" Murray of Oklahoma and Albert Ritchie.

The voting went down to the fourth ballot with Ritchie finally surrendering his 23 delegates to FDR who won with 945 votes to Al Smith's 190. In doing so Ritchie hoped to be offered the vice president slot. That was not to be as John Nance Garner had surrendered his delegates, more than 100, to FDR as well and was offered the vice presidency.

By the end of his fourth term, Ritchie was beginning to denounce FDR's New Deal as radical and as a way to overthrow the American Democratic system. His Democratic and Republican opponents began attacking his long tenure as governor as "machine politics." In 1934, seeking a fifth term and the possibility of a "Ritchie Forever" governorship, which seemed quite feasible, he faced a stronger Democratic primary opponent -- Dr. Charles Conley. After winning the primary, he faced Republican Harry W. Nice in the general election, but still was widely predicted to win.



Nice exploited the state's Democratic Party and attacked Ritchie as the boss of a corrupt machine that had worn out his welcome. Nice defeated Ritchie 253,813 to 247,644 votes in what turned out to be a closer election than had been predicted.

The quantity of political items produced for Ritchie's five gubernatorial elections is extraordinary for this time period, 1919 to 1934. Without a doubt, the three small dated 1930 cellos, two 4th Ward and one League Member, are the scarcest of the items. As a collector for more than 50 years, I have seen these only once. Many of the other items seldom come to the market, while others are quite common.

It is interesting to note that all of Ritchie's buttons are celluloid. No lithographs were created. The large "Maryland Democrat Victory Campaign" item is a window sticker. The "Your Candidate for Governor" is a dated 1919 paper brochure. The yellowed/stained cello is worded "Glosuj Na Brzyjaciela Polrow Na Gubernatora Albert C. Ritchie" which I believe is Polish, an unusual campaign item for the period.





CORRECTION

In the Spring 2024 edition of *The Keynoter*, the article "Heroes Help Get McKinley on Track," by David Holcomb mentioned a ribbon from Fairfield, IL related to the event. Unfortunately the ribbon was not included with the article. We present the ribbon here.



Tom Peeling, Keynoter Editor

It's a Big, Big, Big, Big World

By Tom Peeling, Keynoter Editor

Go big or go home should be Roger Richert's motto.

Then again, perhaps it is already.

Take for example a very large Willkie banner that he bought years ago from APIC member Michael McQuillen at the Indianapolis APIC show. It was rolled up in his room with only about 3 feet showing. Since most collectors have limited space for large items, he managed to buy this banner for \$75 and put it on display rather than having it sit in a closet rolled up.

"It's like bringing these things to life," Richert said of the Willkie banner and other large political items he displays. "It brought history alive. It was like you were there at the convention," he said of unrolling and displaying the banner.

Richert, who started collecting in 1966, is fortunate to have the wall space for these large items. He owns the 120,000-square-foot Richmond (IN) Furniture Gallery where he displays a lot of these items. The building was originally built as a hardware store in 1886. By 1910 it was the third largest hardware store in the United States, complete with very high ceilings and eventually a freight elevator that can hold a small car. When Richert bought the building it had been vacant for 33 years. It had no heat and no plumbing. There were 277 broken windows. It's about 20 percent larger than the average Home Depot store.

When Richert was looking to buy the building, he had three bankers tour the site and, leaving out the expletive, they all told him he was ... crazy. The fourth banker was from a local bank.

"He looked through it and never said a word. He left and didn't look happy," Richert remembered, thinking he had struck out again. "Fifteen minutes later the loan officer called and said the bank president has one question for you: 'Will you pay him back?'"

The rest is history as the large brick building's new life helped renovate what Richert called "the worst part of town." He now owns two large furniture galleries and four furniture outlet stores in the state.



Richmond is aptly named as it has a rich presidential history. Twenty-two U.S. presidents have visited the city, the latest being Bill Clinton when he was campaigning for his wife. Of those, 20 have come through the local train depot, which Richert and his wife Theresa helped renovate as well.

His largest political item is a large Willkie street banner that hangs in the store. He estimates it at 28 feet long, recalling what he thought as he unrolled it: "That sucker just kept going." He mentioned his love of the slogan on it which says Elect Willkie for Peace, Prosperity and Adequate Defense. He also has a Harrison-Morton flag that is 18-20 feet long and 9 feet wide that has two Maine coattail candidates' names on the bottom.

Because most large items have limited appeal to folks, he does tend to find bargains.

"For the most part, you can buy pretty reasonable," he said. "I'm pretty lucky in that I have the wall space.

He not only had the wall space in the store, but he has a large barn (that most folks would call a large garage) at his home, plus a finished attic in the house that is all his for display. A long Henry Clay slavery banner that is so large it curls around two walls in the attic is his favorite item.

While he might have lots of large items, his first love is still buttons, including three Cox-Roosevelt jugates. TR is his favorite president and favorite one to collect.

"I love the TR stuff," he said, noting that he started with just Rough Rider and Hat in the Ring items before branching out. "I just fill Riker mount after Riker mount after Riker mount."

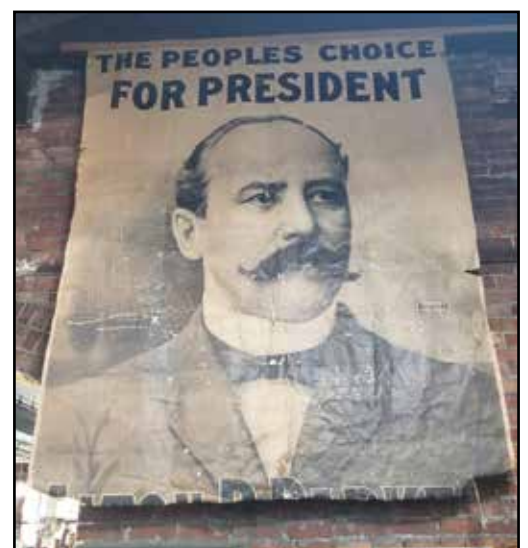
He's come a long way since that first antique show at age 9 where he bought a tab as his first political item.

"I bought an LBJ for 25 cents and it's still worth 25 cents!"

He also bought some items from a collector named John Stone in Cincinnati and then the 1968 election came along where he found lots of Nixon buttons at the headquarters for free, and George Wallace items at that headquarters, noting that he had to buy those on a very limited budget as a kid.

"If you had 10 bucks you had a lot of money," he said.

Richert became the youngest licensed auctioneer in Indiana at age 18 when he was still in high school. His dad was an auctioneer and both parents encouraged him in his collecting.

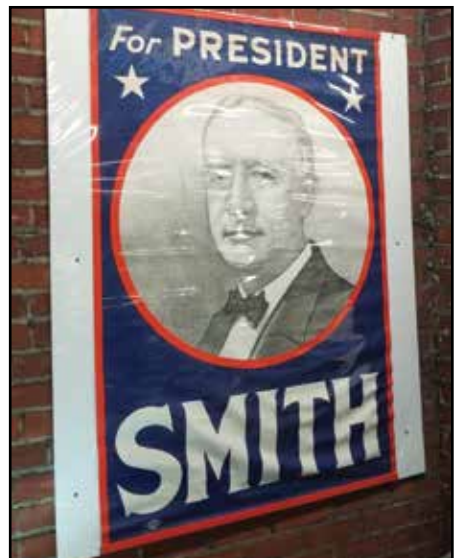


His mother even allowed him to put some old upholstery material in a frame, pin buttons to it and hang it in the landing of their stairwell.

“Pretty soon I had a second (frame) and a third.”

But there was one special day he recalled from 1968.

“Bobby Kennedy came to Richmond,” he said. “My mom let me skip school. I shook Bobby Kennedy’s hand a month before he was killed.”



Continued from page 5.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I appreciated the (Spring 2024 Keynoter) memorial article on Rex Stark so very much. It inspired me to say a few more words on the person that became one of my absolute best life friends, and the ultimate reason why we are all so blessed in this hobby, because it is really about the people. I spoke to Rex at least 3 times each week for almost 12 straight years. Besides listening and learning from a brilliant mind, I would constantly hear compassion and true understanding about myself, (his wife) Patti and other friends, and our world. His stories were endless, and his mind was a computer in every sense. Like most of my friends, he was a true seeker of the wonderful and sublime, and the thrill of the hunt was our drug of choice. He was my true mentor and driving force for my collection in the second chapter of my collecting sojourn, while Tom Slater was the architect of my first real chapter. As I have said previously, and will continue to say, we were all so blessed to have Rex for the time we did. He left a lasting mark on all who really knew him, as well as those that never had that privilege. He was the embodiment of the APIC.

-Cary Demont, APIC 5982

Thank you for publishing the obituary for Rex Stark (Spring Keynoter 2024). I met Rex only a few times, at APIC conventions and regional meetings, but I was one of the people who experienced his soft side, his fixed-price catalog and his offer to call any time. I did call, often late at night because of the three-hour time difference between California and Massachusetts, and I bought some of the nicest items in my collection from Rex. Sometimes the item I sought was already sold because of that time difference, but Rex would take the time to share a few of what I call "the stories behind the buttons." I realize that if I had not joined APIC, I would not have had the pleasure of meeting and dealing with Rex, and with many other devoted collectors as well.

-Rob Clifford, APIC 1044



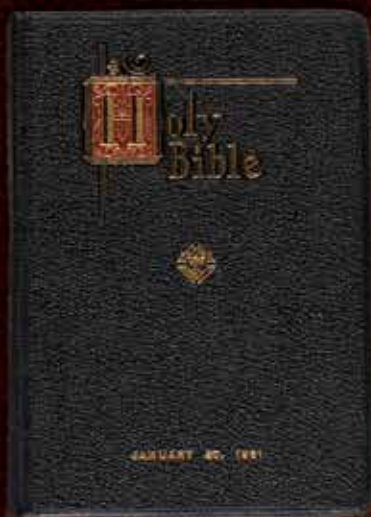
I greatly enjoyed the (Spring 2024 Keynoter) feature showing all of the comic books to feature John Kennedy. I have one more to add. Years ago, I bought a March 1962 edition of "Adventure Comics, Edition No. 294" (Volume One) a/k/a Superboy: Dial M for Monster. The synopsis (as per dc.fandom.com/wiki/) of this issue is as follows: On Halloween Bizarro No. 1 and his friends dress up in horrible masks of Marilyn Monroe, John F. Kennedy, and others, to scare people, and play a prank on Bizarro Krypto." Interestingly, this issue was published just three months before Marilyn Monroe famously sang Happy Birthday to the president and publicly "outed" their... chemistry.

-David Yount, APIC 6913

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