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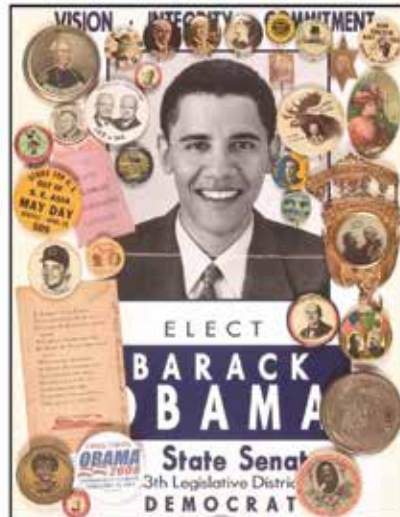
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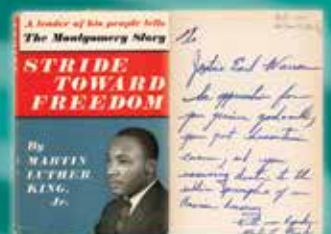
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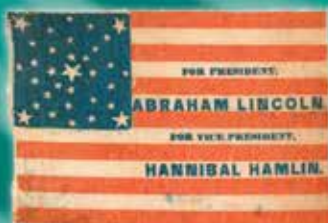
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FROM THE APIC PRESIDENT

U.S. political history is full of amazing, incredible stories. Whether from a whistlestop train tour (like those documented in this issue) to an inauguration ceremony in the freezing rain to the early morning, smoke-filled rooms of a political nominating convention, the stories of how candidates were elected and confirmed can be mesmerizing.

One of the stories I frequently recall has a very sad ending, but the inventions created and the mistakes made are worth remembering. I'm referring to the assassination of President James Garfield, just four months after he took office in 1881. After being shot in the back at a train station by assassin Charles Guiteau, Garfield was taken to the White House to recover. It was July and very hot, so Navy engineers responded by inventing the first air conditioner. They used a fan to blow air over a box of ice, which cooled the room by 20 degrees.



The bullet had lodged in Garfield's stomach, but exactly where was unknown. His chief physician, Dr. Willard Bliss, would poke his fingers into the wound on a daily basis looking for the bullet, but instead caused infection and later sepsis since washing his hands first wasn't a widespread practice. In a later attempt to find the bullet, Alexander Graham Bell invented a metal detector that could locate a bullet in a body. But Dr. Bliss was so certain that the bullet was in Garfield's right side, that he only allowed Bell to search on that side, so the bullet was never found. Sadly, Garfield died 79 days after being shot and two months before his 50th birthday. His body was full of pus from the infection, and it was later determined that the doctor's finger poking into the wound had not only brought about the infection, but had ruptured Garfield's liver.

Ironically, in 1881, there were hundreds of Civil War veterans leading normal lives with bullets lodged within their bodies from the battles they'd fought. And both historians and medical experts agree that if the bullet within Garfield's stomach had been left untreated, he likely would have recovered fully. The memorable saying from that episode – ignorance is Bliss – fully lays the blame for Garfield's death on his physician.

I share that story to encourage you to mine the many great tales from U.S. political history, whether they are shared in the *Keynoter* or published elsewhere. For instance, for a complete overview of Garfield's assassination, consider reading *Destiny of the Republic* by Candice Millard, a wonderful author who has also chronicled Teddy Roosevelt's trip through an Amazon River tributary and Winston Churchill's efforts during the Boer War. Both are excellent chronicles of history and well worth your time. Happy reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tony Lee, APIC President

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



In August 1971, APIC member Tom French did something no one to that point had done for the political collecting hobby. He started a hobby newspaper. So in August of that year, the Political Americana monthly newspaper made its debut. It was eight pages.

It wouldn't be long before the name would be changed to The Political Collector. It turned out someone was already using the name Political Americana and had the rights to it. While researching and interviewing for a story about controversial former APIC member Dick Bristow, Tom offered me the bound edition of his newspaper from 1971-1975.

While dominated by ads (\$64 bought you a full-page ad then), it contains lots of information about early APIC shows, its members and the items we collect. Since none of this information was ever archived digitally, over the next few years we'll bring you an occasional story from the pages of this early political collecting newspaper. These stories will be noted when/where they came from, and, of course, they are being published with the permission of Tom French. They provide valuable information that otherwise might be lost. Such a story about Lincoln campaign badges is in this edition of the Keynoter.

Many thanks to Tom French for allowing us to publish these early gems from our hobby.

Tom Peeling, Keynoter Editor

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**FRONT COVER--**

Media pass for President Ford's 1976 train tour.

NEXT ISSUE-- Dressing for elections.

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.*

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Just a quick note to say how much I appreciated your Dick Bristow story (Winter 2024 Keynoter). I bought his book years ago (and referred to it along with others) and I knew something of his APIC dismissal. Although his story might not be of much consequence to me, I do appreciate learning "the rest of the story." Thank you.

Oh, and in the Bob Coup memories story (Winter 2024 Keynoter), the fondue story was priceless.

-Jim Sellers, APIC 9375

I just got my Keynoter (Winter 2024 issue) and went immediately to the (Dick) Bristow article. Funny story, I was in high school in 1972 and handed over one of his sales lists to the local McGovern headquarters, thinking if they ordered some that would make them official! I checked back a few weeks later. They didn't

-Steve Martin, APIC 2298

Continued page 34.

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American Political Items Conservators is the educational division of the American Political Items Collectors Inc., a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization. APIC seeks to encourage and support the study and preservation of original materials issuing from and relating to political campaigns of the United States of America and to bring its members fuller appreciation and deeper understanding of the candidates and issues that form our political heritage.

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Tale of a \$185,000 pin

By Charlie Hertlein, APIC 5135

The first two questions I'm usually asked when someone finds out that I collect political campaign buttons is: What are they worth and what is the most expensive button in your collection?

While collectors think about this as well, in most cases it is not their first priority. For me, it's eye appeal and then the history of the item. Unfortunately, my eye tends to go straight to the most expensive items. But not in all cases.

As someone who is really interested in the history behind the item, my curiosity leads me to wondering how some of these items you rarely ever see made their way from manufacturer to the auction catalog. It just so happens that I know the story behind the most expensive campaign button to ever sell at auction: The 1 ¼-inch Cox Roosevelt that sold in Hake's auction for \$185,850.

This story starts with a small box sitting high on a shelf in a post office, also serving as a campaign headquarters in the very small town of Fork, NC. They also published *The Hornet* newsletter, identified as "The Hottest Democratic Paper in The United States." The editor, who was also the postmaster, was W. Henry Davis.

It was common in North Carolina at the time for the postmaster assignment to be politically motivated. I never met Henry. He passed away in 1960, but I knew his younger brother Dan. Dan was the uncle of my second cousin, also a Davis.

Dan was an antique dealer. When Dan found out I collected political, he said "do I have a story for you." Dan said they were cleaning out the old post office building, the home to *The Hornet*, when he came across what I refer to as "The Box," which contained two pinbacks. One was 7/8 inch and one was 1 ¼ inch, and both were Cox Roosevelt jugates.

As an antique dealer, Dan had a feeling that the buttons might be good and as he showed them around to fellow dealers, he was made offers, but was savvy enough not to sell them without first doing some research. While doing his research, he came across an ad in the *Antique Trader* newspaper offering to pay top price for Cox Roosevelt jugates. We're talking the 1970s, before I got to know Dan or the rarity of a Cox Roosevelt jugate.

I'm not sure of the year, but Dan reached out to the advertiser who I later got to know really well. I was an APIC member by then. We often talked about how the deal went down and the seller always liked to say he bought them from my uncle. Not really, but more a good friend in our extended family.

They both talked to me about how they came up with a price and that Dan would not mail them. The buyer had to fly into Greensboro, N.C., to pick them up. Dan lived in Davie County, which is also where Fork is located, about 50 miles from Greensboro. They spent their time getting to know each other and completing the transaction before the buyer flew back to the West Coast.

Both Dan and the collector (I promised not to mention his name) shared identical stories. They are now both deceased and the button's history remained with me and a few others I shared the story with until now.



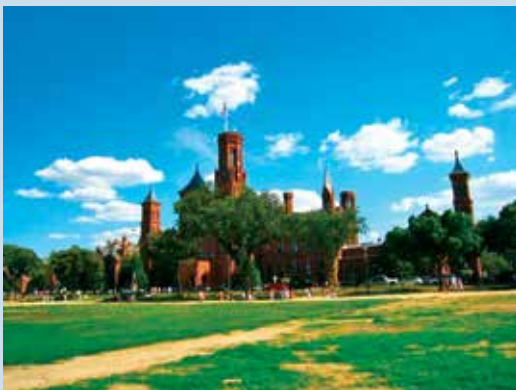


It is pretty obvious the headquarters received these two pins from the manufacturer as samples in hopes of an order.

I have a postcard as well as a newspaper published by *The Hornet*. It states "The Hornet circulates from Maine to Mexico and from Puget Sound to the beautiful tail-end of Florida."

The price of the paper was 35 cents a year, or 25 cents for four or more. It noted that you could ask for "20 at 25 cents and get a nice novelty pocket knife, with President Roosevelt's picture on handle and club raiser's name and address on opposite side."

The small box had a big story and exemplifies the saying "good things come in small packages."



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MY THREE FAVORITE FINDS

A Passion for the Hunt

By Becky Peeling, Keynoter Associate Editor

If you know Scott Mussell (APIC 14722), you will not be surprised that Iowa is prominent in his personal collection. Mussell is well known to many in the hobby through his decade-long association with Hake's Americana. Prior to that, he was an avid collector, who became an enthusiast because his father, Lee Mussell (APIC 9270), and uncle had started an estate-sale business.

Mussell recalled scouring antique stores throughout his state looking for pins. His father, who was a history teacher, said that the buttons "spoke to him." Today, the two men share the passion for collecting.

"At first, you don't find much," he said.

Often when he returned to those same antique stores, he was surprised that some items had been held for him.

"I remember thinking," he said, "these are good badges."

Among his favorite finds is the trio of Theodore Roosevelt pins from the Iowa Progressive Convention in 1912. Mussell said it was surprising to find the very rare buttons as a group.

Another prized item is the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) "One Man, One Vote" flag carried on the March to Selma. Mussell was attending an estate auction of furniture and art in New York City when he spotted the item. The golf-green-sized flag had some condition issues, but it was a legitimate, historical item.

"I never like to leave bids," Mussell said. "You never know what will happen."

Instead, he decided to bid by phone and "fought it out" with another buyer. He noted, "These live auctions go fast – like 80 to 100 lots an hour. There is something to be said for the auction rush."

He won the flag for "a very reasonable price" considering that one other is among the collection of Washington, D.C.'s American History Museum. Mussell said that another flag is owned by APIC member John Olsen (APIC 10933), who found it on eBay.

The hand-screened flag was carried on the Civil Rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

"At the end of the movie, Selma, you can see the flag in the actual photos of the march," he said. "Anything from that march is important to me."



Working as a photojournalist for 10 years through his high school and college years at the University of Iowa, Mussell was often a witness to history. As a staff photographer for the *Waterloo (Iowa) Courier*, he was caught up in the excitement of the 2008 Iowa caucuses when Barack Obama campaigned against John Edwards.

"The first time I saw him (Obama) talk, I saw how he was connecting with people," Mussell said. He began following Obama on his announcement tour of the state, recalling the campaign's well-organized ground game where even tiny Iowa towns had a headquarters for the candidate.

When the caucuses were over, the headquarters shut down. Mussell was invited by the staff to take anything that he wanted – down to postage stamps, printers, office supplies. The staff had saved a special item for him – the vinyl banner that had hung behind Obama during his Waterloo appearance that Mussell had photographed.

"To this day, the banner is sitting in my basement as I have no way of displaying it," he said.

Mussell and his father hold two collections together – his father holds their FDR collection in Des Moines while he has the Civil Rights. Mussell credits APIC member Fred Strickland with educating him on collecting African- American history. Their connection doesn't stop there, however, as Strickland had taught Mussell's father, and later returned to university to become an osteopathic physician and classmate of APIC member Drew Hecht (APIC 2418).

"Having Fred direct me in my collecting of Civil Rights was really helpful," Mussell said. "There are not as many sources for collectors to educate them on the movement" that spanned the 1930s through 1960s. "I am grateful to the small groups of early collectors for preserving this history."



The Buck Stops Here: Two Kindred Saints

By Michael J. Brooks, APIC 8647

Former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter was peppered with questions about his faith during the 1976 presidential campaign. His oft-spoken response was that the nation already had a Baptist president: Harry Truman. Jewish groups during the campaign were uneasy about a Baptist's supposed non-support of Israel. Carter reminded them it was Truman who presided over the formation of the state of Israel in 1948.

Carter said in a 1991 interview that he'd never met Truman, though he had met First Daughter Margaret Truman two or three times and First Lady Bess Truman on Sept. 2, 1980, before speaking at Harry Truman High School.

Not only did Carter share religion with Truman, but he also suggested in the 1991 interview that Truman was his model for courageous leadership.

"I thought (Truman) was the greatest president of this century," Carter said.

"He was always the one that I mentioned when I was asked . . . (about influence), never anyone else. I thought about him often when I was in the White House. He was involved deeply in many of the issues that I had to address. He told the truth even when it was painful. He didn't try to shift blame for disappointments or failures to other people. He was courageous, and he never ducked an important issue because it might cost him a few points in the public opinion poll.

"Also, I felt kind of a kinship with him. We both came from a kind of community that was similar in some ways, and we went back home after the election and the service in the White House."

Carter's first mention of Truman was when he recounted being aboard a submarine in the North Atlantic in 1945. All hands were summoned to hear a message from President Truman about a new "superbomb" that had been used in Japan to end the war. Carter was in submarine school during the Truman/Dewey presidential race and recalls he was the only classman who supported the president.

Carter began his presidential bid at FDR's home in Warm Springs, Ga. He spoke approvingly of the work



of FDR and Truman and said Gerald Ford was more like Herbert Hoover. He promised to carry Truman's "The Buck Stops Here" mindset with him to Washington.

After the primaries and prior to the convention, Carter read several books on the presidents. He said he admired Wilson, who came to office in troubled times, but Truman was the one with whom he most identified.

After his inauguration, the president and his family joined the First Baptist Church in Washington, the same church Truman often attended, as did LBJ, Martin Van Buren and Franklin Pierce. Carter attended services there 73 times and taught the men's Bible class 14 times.

Carter faced criticism for bringing the so-called "Georgia Mafia" with him to Washington, but insisted former presidents FDR, Truman and Kennedy had done the same thing.

"I decided without any doubt that my predecessors had chosen wisely," he wrote. "The selection of loyal and well-known associates is the result of a need for maximum mutual confidence and a minimum of jealousy and backbiting within a president's inner circle."

Carter included several Truman entries in *White House Diary*. He said he found strength in troubled times from Robert Donovan's book, *Conflict and Crisis: The Presidency of Harry S. Truman, 1945-1948*. Carter noted Truman was a leader who "suffered constant problems with staff, cabinet, leaks, press, Congress."

Carter announced an oil import fee in 1980 in his effort to promote conservation, but Congress approved a resolution to kill the fee. Carter vetoed the resolution and feared his veto might be overridden, the first time a Democrat president's veto had been overridden since Truman in 1952. Like Truman, he fought hard, but the threat of rising gasoline prices brought about the override.

Carter insisted his well-known commitment to human rights was also a Truman legacy.

"President Harry Truman was the strongest and most effective advocate of human rights on an international scale," Carter wrote. "His encouragement of the formation of the United Nations and his steadfastness in the face of great pressure as he quickly recognized the new nation of Israel were vivid demonstration of American influence at its finest."

Carter noted in *White House Diary* that at a re-election rally in St. Louis, near Truman's hometown of Independence, he emphasized the "parallel" between himself and Truman.

And in his post-presidency, Carter continued to lift up Truman as a model. In *Beyond the White House*, Carter wrote, "In a somewhat naïve moment soon after Election Day, I had told the White House press corps that I intended to emulate President Harry Truman and refrain from using my service in office as a means of enriching myself."



APIC MEMBER PROFILE:**Patrick Mara, APIC 16896*****By Adam Gottlieb, APIC 4864***

While the presidential election of 2024 made news throughout the world, another election in 2025 garnered much less attention but had an important APIC connection.

In January, Patrick Mara (APIC 16896) was re-elected Chairman of the Washington, D.C. Republican Party for a third term. Mara, 50, notes that D.C. is unique because “it is the only entirely urban ‘state’ Republican party.” While much of his adult career has been interwoven with politics and advocacy, his path to collecting starts at an earlier time.

Growing up Irish Catholic in Rhode Island, Mara acquired a couple of common John F. Kennedy lithos when he was about eight years old. But it wasn’t until the 1980s that he began to collect political memorabilia in earnest.

In his high school honors U.S. history class, Mara was responsible for staging a mock presidential election in 1992.

“I visited local Republican and Democratic campaign headquarters to accumulate swag and deliver it to students,” Mara said. “I grabbed lots of free stuff from both campaign headquarters and I kept the leftovers that didn’t go to fellow students. Through this experience, I became hooked on collecting and politics.”

As an undergrad, Mara attended Marist University near the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park.

“While at Marist, I took a winter class on the history of the Hudson Valley. We spent much of the class with lectures at the FDR Library, and we visited both Val-Kil and Top Cottage,” he said.

This experience inspired him to start collecting FDR. He also collects McKinley, Reagan, Rhode Island, the District of Columbia, and Prohibition.

He joined the APIC in June 2012.

“I wish I’d become a member earlier,” Mara said. “When I was lobbying for eBay, one of Sen. Clinton’s staffers told me about the local APIC show.”

Inspired by the word-of-mouth, he then discovered the APIC on the Internet and from eBay sellers who enclosed membership material with purchased items.



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"The first APIC show I attended was the Tysons Corner (VA) show in 2014," he said. "I remember meeting Mort Berkowitz (APIC 3269) and Bob Fratkin (APIC 793). Wearing a front-facing infant carrier, I brought my young son, Cian, to the show. I loved it so much that I attended my first APIC National Convention in Denver later that summer."

One memorable moment on his collecting path was when he bought a box of JFK buttons and paper items. After keeping what he wanted, Mara sold the remaining 100 items and it more than recouped his investment.

"It was that moment I realized I had a hobby that paid for itself," Mara said.

When asked about his APIC mentor, Mara mentions speaking with Frank Mermoud (APIC 2507) weekly.

"Frank worked in the Reagan and Bush 41 and 43 administrations, participated in numerous GOP Presidential campaigns and is a prolific collector and good friend," he said.

The friendship with Memoud is one of the things he regards as a strength of the organization.

Attending APIC shows allows you to become known to other APIC members and the friendliness of members is a definite strength," Mara said. "Everyone shares the love of history and is willing to assist newbies with questions.

"Living in Washington, I've been fortunate to have access and opportunity. I was the first Republican elected to the local school board in one of the district's most racially diverse wards. I've been an Alternate Delegate, Delegate, and Delegation Aide at several Republican National Conventions. At the 2024 RNC, I was Chairman of the DC Delegation, and the Convention Chairman named me an 'Officer of the Convention.' While having the access and my name in the program were excellent, I couldn't help but think of the vintage RNC ladder badges with "Officer of the Convention," added Mara.

Following his college graduation in 1997, Mara went to work for U.S. Sen. John H. Chafee (R-RI) at the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. During his time there, Mara acquired a variety of souvenirs from Capitol Hill receptions.

"As a Senate staffer, I'd attend dinners and other events and pick up souvenirs that were usually congressional or presidential related," he said.

Mara collects political convention credentials, event tickets, and paper ephemera. During the Senate Impeachment trial of President Clinton, he obtained a complete set of impeachment tickets from friends in various Senate offices.

"To me, the most interesting thing about political paper items is they were used at a singular event," he said.

Mara has saved every ticket from every political event –



White House and congressional events, political dinners, conventions, and inaugurations – that he’s attended.

“Please don’t tell my wife,” he said.

However, modern life has evolved from paper to digital bits. From invitations to concert tickets, much of daily life is digital. This impacts political collectors yearning for physical artifacts.

“No one wants to collect an email invitation or a QR code,” Mara said. “Based on conversations with congressional staff, this may be the last Inauguration where paper tickets were used.”

Mara is a crusader when it comes to getting collectors to check out the APIC.

“I simply encourage them to join. When Congress is in session, I often speak with Congressional staff and lobbyists. If I learn they’re interested in political memorabilia, I encourage them to attend the local show. In fact, I texted five different House Chiefs of Staff and lobbyists to come to the 2025 Rockville show,” Mara said.

Looking at ways to engage a younger generation, Mara stated, “my children don’t read much on paper. Kids today are more likely to read on a mobile phone or tablet rather than a desktop computer and certainly not a newspaper.”

Reaching new, younger members will require the APIC to identify how millennials and youth interact and consume social media, he said.

“The APIC could develop a monthly email newsletter and a YouTube channel with short videos for educational purposes for member recruitment and retention,” he said.

He notes the American Numismatic Association has a robust education series online.

Another observation was nearly every APIC dealer at in-person shows transacts deals with cash only. Since younger members are less likely to carry cash, he suggested dealers consider options for cashless ways to pay (e.g. Zelle, Venmo) to cater to new members.

When asked how his sons, Cian (now 11 years old) and Owen (8 years old), engage with his collection, Mara said, “we discuss presidents and historical figures based on the items they view in my collection. As a family, we frequently visit historical sites. During a trip to Campobello (FDR’s summer home), Cian and Owen pointed out familiar FDR buttons they saw in my collection.” Because of their ages, Mara thinks they’d prefer watching a movie or playing a video game than accompanying their dad to an APIC show.

“During the first Trump and Biden administrations, we visited the White House a few times. At home, my boys see my Trump and Biden buttons, but unlike most people, they get invited to see the president at the White House,” Mara said.

His wife Shannon works for the U.S. House of Representatives childcare office. Because of her role and his standing in D.C., Mara and his family have attended a dozen White House events, including the annual Easter Egg Roll on the White House South Lawn and many seasonal celebrations. Amusingly, one year his son balked at attending the Easter festivities saying he’d “already been to the White House.”



ONE-DAY EVENT

When Billy Taft Came to Town

By David Holcomb, APIC 5993

This wonderful Taft piece (shown on this page) was described in The Brook Reporter newspaper as a “beautiful, oxidized metal souvenir badge” and was produced by the Greenduck Co. of Chicago for George Ade. He had them prepared for the Taft rally on Sept. 23, 1908 in Brook, IN. Hazelden is spelled correctly on the badge but it is unknown why The Brook Reporter spelled it Hazeldon.

On Sept. 22, 1908, Taft spoke in Cincinnati at the convention of the National League of Republican Clubs. Since he had no other engagements until Oct. 7, the Republican National Committee put together a 10-day whistlestop tour for Taft through the Midwest. Taft and party traveled through Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and on to Chicago.

George Ade saw this as an opportunity to have Taft make a stop at his summer retreat in Brook before Taft parted on his 10-day journey. Ade was a syndicated newspaper columnist and playwright. His column was titled *Stories of the Streets and of the Town*. It was a popular column describing life in Chicago using slang and the street language of the day. He also wrote books, one of which was *Fables in Slang* (1900) and he became known as the “Aesop of Indiana.”

Plans were made and the rally was a success with thousands of these badges being given out. Presented here is the complete account of the day as reported in *The Brook Reporter* of Sept. 25, 1908:



TAFT AT BROOK

Judge William Howard Taft, Republican Nominee for President of the United States, Delivers his First Speech at Hazeldon Farm Wednesday Afternoon.

25,000 People on the Grounds.

Great Event in the Political History of Northern Indiana Takes Place at George Ade's Country Home, Hazeldon. When Judge William Howard Taft Delivered an Address to 25,000 People, on the Political Issues of the Day.

The great Republican rally at Brook is a thing of the past, in extent it was the greatest rally ever held in Northern Indiana, and it will probably top the mark for years to come of like events.

William H. Taft, George Ade and Brook have been the talk of the English-speaking world for the last three days, and every paper of any consequence from New York to San Francisco has used from a mere notice to columns on the event and its far reaching good. Unanimously Mr. Ade and Brook have been

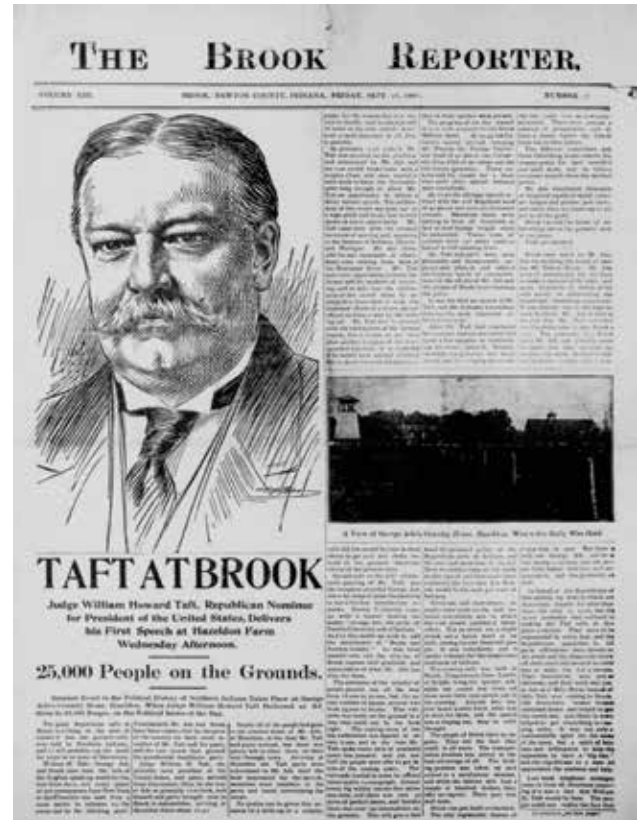
commended by the press of the country for their royal reception of Mr. Taft and his party, and the vast crowd that greeted the presidential candidate's party.

Judge William H. Taft, the probable next president of the United States, and party, arrived from Cincinnati, Ohio, by the way of Ade at promptly 12 o'clock, and himself and party brought over to Brook in automobiles, arriving at Hazeldon Farm about 12:30.

Nearly all of the people had gone to the country home of Mr. Ade, at Hazeldon, at the time Mr. Taft and party arrived, but there was plenty left to cheer them on their way through town. Arriving at Hazeldon the Taft party were entertained by Mr. Ade until the hour announced for the speech, meantime some members of the party and bands entertained the crowd.

No justice can be given this occasion by a write-up in a country paper, for the reason that it is too vast to handle, and no attempt will be made to dip into details whatever; a mere summary is all that is possible.

At promptly 1:30 o'clock, Mr. Taft was escorted on the platform and introduced by Mr. Ade, and the vast crowd broke loose with a mighty cheer, and once started it (was) hard work to keep the thousands quiet long enough to allow Mr. Taft an opportunity to deliver a thirty-minute speech. The enthusiasm of the crowd was pent up to a high pitch and broke loose in wild cheers at every opportunity. Mr. Taft came here with the avowed intention of meeting and speaking to the farmers of Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan. He met them. And he met thousands of others. Some even coming from west of the Mississippi River. Mr. Taft had every opportunity to study the farmer and his methods of receiving, and so wild was the enthusiasm of the crowd when he attempted to leave that it took the combined efforts of a dozen special officers to force a way to the waiting car. Mr. Taft may be pleased with the enthusiasm of his farmer friends, but it is safe to say that after another reception of the kind accorded him here, it is doubtful if he would have enough clothing left to meet the next delegation, so wild did the crowd become in their efforts to get near and shake the hand of the greatest American citizen of the present time.



Second only to the wild enthusiastic greeting of Mr. Taft, was the reception accorded George Ade when he stepped upon the platform to make his few introductory remarks. Purdue University came up with a banner bearing the motto: "George Ade, the pride of Purdue University and of Indiana." And to this motto we wish to add the amendment of "Brook and Newton County." In this brief manner only can the citizens of Brook express their gratitude and appreciation of what Mr. Ade has done for them.

The estimates of the number of people present ran all the way from 18,000 to 30,000, but the actual number of people present was from 23,000 to 26,000. This estimate was made on the ground in a way that could not be far from right. The seating room of the big auditorium was figured at an easy 8,000, and at the time Mr. Taft spoke every inch of available space was jammed, and yet not half the people were able to get inside of the seating space. The railroads hauled in town by official count nearly 10,000 people. Almost every rig within twenty-five miles was here, and there was over 30 acres of parked teams, and besides there was over 150 automobiles on the grounds. This will give a fair idea of what number were present.

The program of the day started at 9:30 with a concert by the Brook Military Band. At 10:45 the Lafayette special arrived, bringing Mr. Watson, the Purdue University band of 40 pieces, the University Glee Club of 30 voices and the Old Shady Quartette. These entertained the crowd for a short time until other special features were introduced.

At 11:00 the Chicago special arrived with the 2nd Regiment band of 40 pieces and over one thousand visitors. Meantime trains were coming in from all directions as fast as their human freight could be unloaded. Trains from all sections with 150 miles came in loaded to full standing limit.

Mr. Taft and party were most pleasantly and unexpectedly surprised and pleased, and uttered the highest words of commendation for the efforts of Mr. Ade and the people of Brook in entertaining the party.

It was the first set speech of Mr. Taft, and the National Committeemen say the most important delivered this year.

After Mr. Taft had concluded his remarks, and several others had spent a few minutes in entertaining the crowd, James E. Watson, candidate for governor was introduced, and in a ringing speech defined the proposed policy of the Republican party in Indiana, and his aims and intentions if elected. Most favorable comment was made of this speech and thousands there expressed the hope that Jim Watson would be the next governor of Indiana.

Everyone, and everywhere, remarks were made on the well behaved and orderly way in which the vast crowd conducted themselves. Not an arrest, not a single drunk, not a harsh word or an oath, among twenty thousand people. It was remarkable and it speaks volumes for the temperance sentiment of Indiana.

The evening rally was held in Brook, Congressman Chas Landis of Delphi, being the speaker, and while the crowd was tired, yet there were fully 2,500 people out in the evening. Anyone who has heard Landis knew what was in store for them, and the speech was a ringing one, deep in solid thought.

The people of Brook have no regrets. They did the best they could, in all ways. The transportation problem was solved to the best advantage of all. The feeding problem was taken up and solved in a satisfactory manner, and while the fellows will lose a couple of hundred dollars, they offer no regrets. Their part was well done.

Brook can pat itself on the back. The only regrettable feature of the day came from an unexpected source. There were present a number of pickpockets, and at least a dozen report the loss of from ten to fifty dollars.

The different committees and those furnishing teams deserve the utmost praise for their unselfish and hard work, and we believe everyone accords them the merited praise.

Mr. Ade distributed thousands of beautiful, oxidized metal souvenir badges and picture postcards, and today they are traveling to all points of the globe.

Brook has had the honor of entertaining one of the greatest men of our times.

They are satisfied.

Brook owes much to Mr. Geo. Ade for securing the honor of having Mr. Taft in Brook. Mr. Ade worked unceasingly for ten days to make a success of the rally, and spent thousands of dollars of his own money in entertaining the crowd and furnishing attractions. It was entirely due to the high esteem in which Mr. Ade is held in the East that Mr. Taft consented for friendship sake to pay Brook a visit. The gratitude that Brook owes Mr. Ade can possibly never be repaid, but they certainly appreciate this work in their behalf, and if chance occurs will least repay him in part. But there is only one George Ade, and he is one among a million, and our people fully realize this fact, and appreciate it, and his generosity as well.

In behalf of the Republicans of this section, we wish to thank our democratic friends for what they done, not only in work, but the moral assistance they rendered in making the Taft rally at this place a success. They were to be commended in every way, and the Republicans appreciate it. All party affiliations were thrown to the winds and the democrats threw off their coats and assisted in every way to make the day a success. Their decorations were just as elaborate, and their work was just as free as if Billy Bryan instead of Billy Taft was coming to Brook. Our democratic farmer friends furnished teams and helped to get the crowd out, and those in town helped to get everything in running order. It was not only a commendable spirit for the name of the town, but a spirit of fairness and willingness to help the opposition to have a "big day," and the Republicans to a man all appreciated the courtesy and help.

Last week telephone messages came in from all directions inquiring if it was a fact that William H. Taft would be here. The people could not realize the fact that Mr. Taft would notice a small town like Brook, and pass other towns and cities of twenty times the population without even casting a side glance. If any asks you just remind them that Brook is on the map.

The short time allowed for preparations for the big rally kept everything on a rush, and not over half that was at first planned could be carried out. But then we had Bill Taft here just the same, and that was a great deal.

This week certainly has been a strenuous one on the citizens of our little town, and especially on the businessmen and others that had the chief responsibility of looking after the crowd.

There has been such an enormous number of old-time friends and visitors in town this week that we were unable to catch even a smattering of them.



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THE TRUTH BE TOLD

Misattributions of Hoover, LaFollette pins

By David Holcomb, APIC 5993

While browsing the 2024 APIC National Convention bourse in Seven Springs, PA, I saw two pins misattributed to Herbert Hoover. I realized that the word was just not getting out on why they were produced.

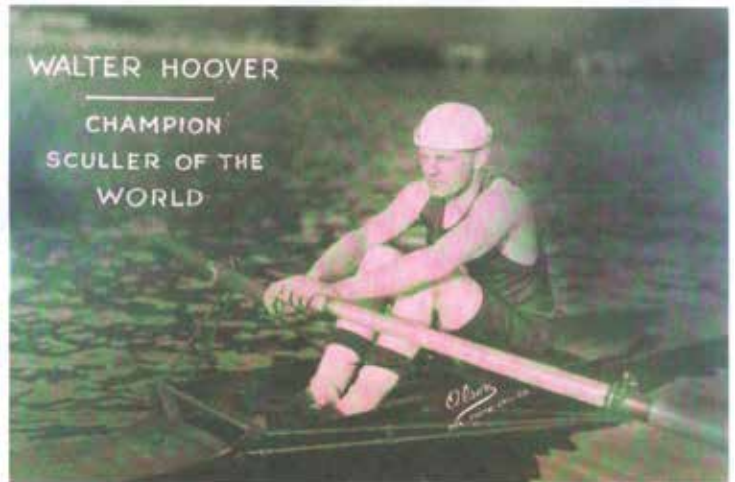
The first is the "Welcome Home Hoover" button, which has sold and been auctioned off in the past for a pretty penny. The conventional wisdom was that it was produced as a souvenir of Herbert Hoover's return to Stanford and pictured a "young" Hoover rowing. However, it is a button from 1922 and was produced for the homecoming of Walter Hoover to Duluth, MN, from England after winning the singles Sculling Championship, as noted by the Associated Press in newspaper articles of the time. While it is a sports collectible, it is not a political or Herbert Hoover collectible.



The second button is the yellow "Don't Tread On Me" button patterned after the Gadsden flag



used in the Revolutionary War. For a long time in our hobby, it was thought to be associated with Robert LaFollette. Several news



accounts, while describing the button to a T, dispel that. The button was given to men who "enlisted" on our first National Defense Day in 1924. It took place on Sept. 12 and plans for it started the previous January. It was meant to be an "inventory" of men and equipment for our national defense.

The date picked was the sixth anniversary of the Battle of St. Mihiel in World War I and it was the day scheduled for Gen. Pershing to retire. Men of military age would "enlist" for the day and receive this button allowing the Army to ascertain its potential strength in time of war. Many communities across the land conducted parades and festivals.

Though it was stated that it was strictly for defense, not all Americans liked the idea. Many saw it as flexing military muscle. It was never declared a national holiday and in 1925 President Coolidge had it moved to July 4 to be part of our Independence Day celebrations. By 1926, all exercises, like those held

The button is a neat piece of Americana from between the wars, but it is not a political campaign piece.

[illegible]

TR's Campaign Train Tour

By Tom Peeling, Keynoter Editor

On March 23, 1909, former President Theodore Roosevelt left for an African hunting trip. When he returned 452 days later on June 18, 1910, it didn't take him long to set out on the road again.

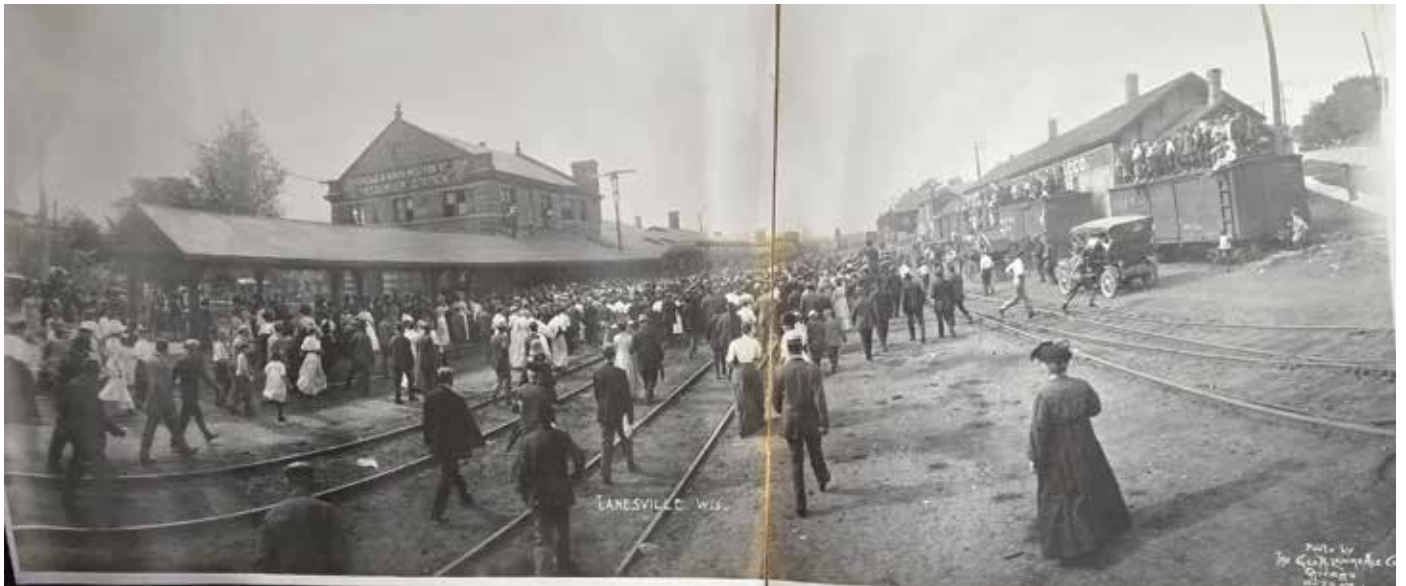
By August, he was already aboard a train bound for the Midwest. While not an official campaign tour for the 1912 election, TR's unhappiness with his hand-picked successor William Howard Taft was on his mind. And judging by the crowds at every train station along the 16-state tour, one has to wonder if this didn't solidify his thoughts of running again in 1912. In fact, one of TR's most important speeches was made on this trip – his New Nationalism speech in Osawatimie, KS.

Several years ago, a good collecting friend of mine offered me a scrapbook filled with photos taken from this 1910 train tour. Most of the photos are either 8x10 inch or they are two 8x10 photos hinged together with oilcloth on the back to create panoramic images. The photos are from stops in 23 different cities in five states that were part of this trip. Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota and South Dakota were the states represented in the photos. And one even shows TR with a group of men, which included his good friend Seth Bullock from South Dakota.

Each photo in the scrap book has the name of the town etched on the negative, as well as the name of the photographer from Chicago. Some of the photos are from the perspective of TR on the back of the train looking out at the crowds, while others are from behind the throngs of people looking toward TR speaking from the back of the caboose.

What is amazing about these photos is the size of the crowds. Thousands turned out at each stop to see the former president. For someone who enjoyed the limelight, each stop must have been a thrill for TR. Well, except for one stop where he was roused from bed early in the morning. He threw on an overcoat and spoke to the people wearing his bedroom slippers and nightclothes under the coat. He scolded the photographers for taking his photo in such adornment.





Unfortunately, there are no ribbons or badges visible in the photos. But just the sight of the throngs gathered around the train, or standing on nearby roofs or climbing poles to see the former Rough Rider is quite impressive.

Best of all, however, this album was once owned by TR himself. A signed note in the front says: Theodore Roosevelt, with kind regards and best wishes, H.R. McCullough. This was from Hiram Rudolph McCullough, vice president of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. He was the son of Hiram McCullough, a U.S. Congressman from Maryland from 1865-1869. The father had railroad connections since he was counsel for many years for the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad. The son married the daughter of the president of the C&N Railroad.

APIC member David Holcomb helped with the research about this TR trip. In an interesting side note, Holcomb's grandfather was a boy of 9 or 10 in 1910, lived in Belvidere, Ill., and saw TR speak from the train the day he visited there. As luck would have it, the photo in Belvidere is looking out toward the crowd and the Holcomb family is searching the photo for Grandfather Holcomb as a youngster. In that search, they found a photo of the photographer on top of the train in Belvidere who likely took the photo in question.









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Keeping Politicians on Track

By Edward Segal, APIC 1481

More than two hundred politicians have campaigned from the back of railroad cars during the past two centuries, leaving behind an array of memorabilia for enthusiasts to collect.

Some of the items that are associated with whistle-stopping candidates — such as buttons, placards, and whistles — were given to people who came to see politicians deliver speeches at train depots and trackside rallies. Others, such as menus, guest and press credentials, and luggage tags, were used by the staff, guests, and reporters who traveled with the politicians.

All the items have one thing in common: they are reminders of anecdotes and stories about the incidents and events on the campaign trail that, which each passing generation, fade a bit more from our collective memory and history.

Here are some of their stories.

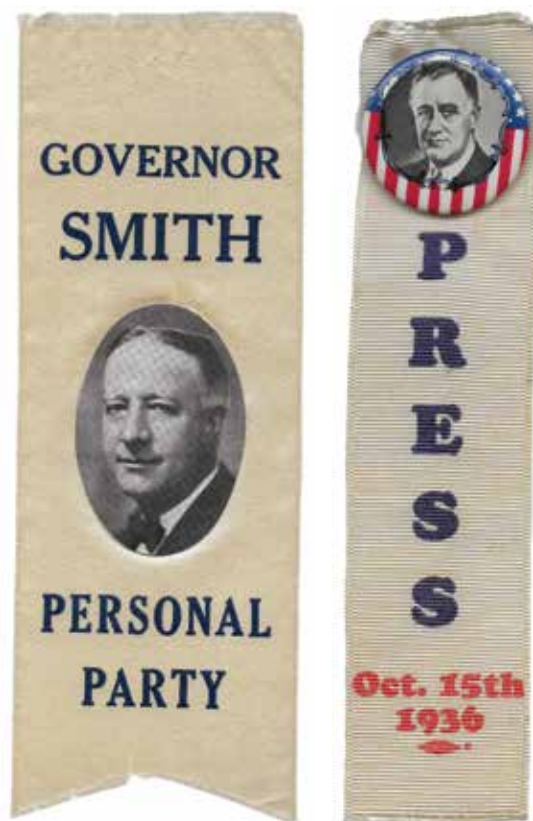
Al Smith

Smith made history in 1928 when the Democratic Party unanimously chose him as its candidate in that year's presidential election. The four-term New York governor was the first Roman Catholic nominee, which also made him a controversial choice for his time. Among those who opposed his election was the Ku Klux Klan, a hate group known for burning crosses, lynchings, and the advocacy of anti-Catholic, antisemitic, white nationalist statements and policies. To protest Smith's candidacy, the KKK burned a cross in a field next to the railroad tracks as his campaign train traveled from Kansas to Oklahoma City.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Journalist Bernard Asbell recalled that "on FDR's 1936 campaign train tour, the Democratic presidential candidate admitted he was tired of sitting by the window of his railcar and waving to the crowds at every town the train passed through.

That is when he asked White House usher William D. Simmons, 'How would you like to be president for a while? Only for a little while. Maybe an hour or two.' 'With a flourish, [Roosevelt] turned over his cigarette holder to Simmons and showed him how to wave a big, open-fingered hand in the Rooseveltian manner and how to smile a big, open-jawed smile,' according to Asbell.



"Fine! Fine!" the president said again. "Now, every time we pass a town, just sit there and wave. I'm tired. I'm going to take a nap." And he wheeled out of the lounge."

All across Arkansas, "Simmons sat by the president's window. At each town, the train slowed, not too little, nor too much, just enough so the local townsfolk could experience the incomparable thrill of seeing" someone who appeared to be Franklin Roosevelt waving to them, Asbell said.

Earl Warren

Reporters who accompanied whistle-stopping politicians would often be stranded at train stations when the campaign trains pulled out of the depot ahead of schedule or without warning.

It took a future chief justice of the United States to come up with a solution to the problem of frequently stranded reporters. Earl Warren, whose father worked on the railroads, was Thomas Dewey's running mate in 1948. Warren instructed his staff to blow a police whistle two minutes before the train was scheduled to leave so that reporters and staff members could have enough time to board.

The practice was later adopted by other candidates, who had the engineer blow the train whistle as the official warning of pending departure.



Dwight D. Eisenhower

Dwight Eisenhower "had a hell of a time" on his campaign train trips, according to aide Homer Gruenther. "He is pressed too much, but these whistlestop campaigns demand stops in almost every city. We stop about every thirty-five minutes, and he talked from five to fifteen minutes. It is generally five. But he no more gets off the platform and seated, than it is time to get up and give another talk... Almost every day, he throws off more steam than the train. But he does a pretty good job laughing outside while he is steaming inside.

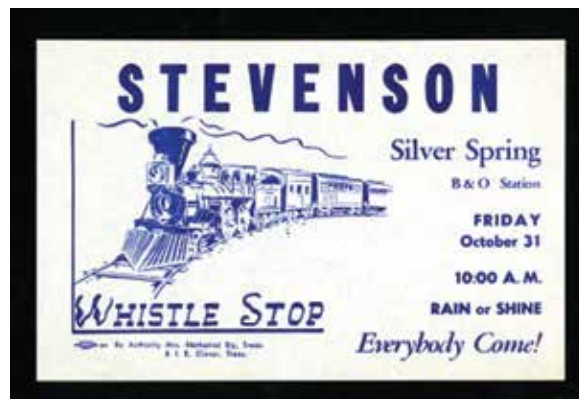
"I know very well when he is saying, 'Senator, it is great to have you with us,' he is saying inside, 'You son-of-a-bitch, what in the hell are you doing on this train?' Sometimes, though, he almost reverses these thoughts."



Adlai Stevenson

In 1952, Adlai Stevenson's campaign train backed up suddenly into a crowd of Stevenson supporters at a train station in Silver Spring, MD. Reporters dubbed it a "ghost train" because Stevenson was not on it. He had been forced to return to Illinois to deal with a prison riot.

United Press said that the train "overshot its scheduled stopping place by about 100 feet. When the crowd ... rushed toward the back platform, the train suddenly backed up, causing dozens of persons to scramble for safety. No one was hurt."



Gerald Ford

Gerald Ford was inspired to campaign by train in 1976 after seeing pictures of Dwight D. Eisenhower's whistle-stopping train tour, which made a stop at Ford's hometown of Grand Rapids, MI. Ford credited his train tour for helping to beat Ronald Reagan in the Republican primary by a two-to-one margin.

Vice President Gerald Ford became president when Richard Nixon resigned in 1974 because of the Watergate scandal. Running for election in 1976, the former Michigan congressman was campaigning by train in Flint, MI, where he bragged about the state's economy. A young man in the crowd disagreed and yelled at the president, "You blew it!" Ford would have none of it, responding, "We blew it in the right direction, young man — and those of you who don't agree — and if you would go out and look for a job, you would get one."



Lady Bird Johnson

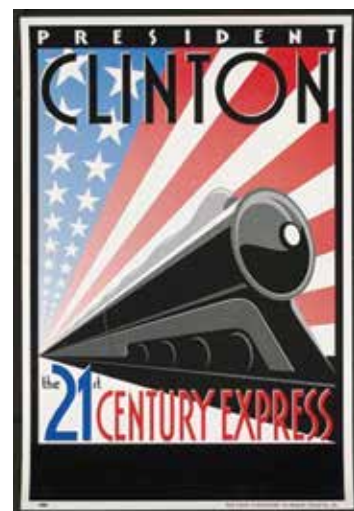
Lady Bird Johnson campaigned 1,680 miles through the South in 1964 to help reassure Dixie that her husband, Lyndon Johnson, had not forgotten his southern roots. It was the first time that a First Lady had gone on a whistle-stop tour by herself.

"For her, the train was a sentimental necessity because she did not want any region of this country to feel that it was the forgotten region, and she went there to say so," recalled Liz Carpenter, staff director and press secretary for Lady Bird.

She made forty-seven speeches along the way, and welcomed on board about sixteen hundred local politicians, dignitaries, and other VIPs.

Bill Clinton

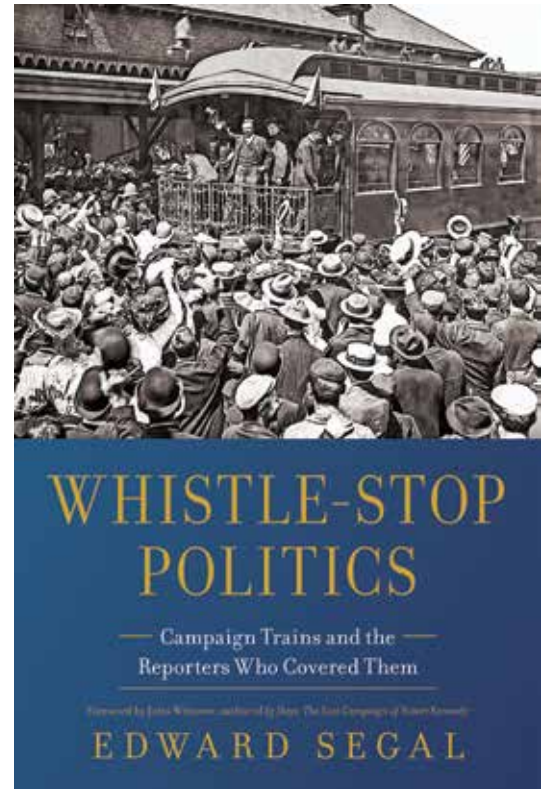
Mike McCurry, White House spokesperson in the Clinton administration, called Bill Clinton's 1996 train tour during his reelection campaign "one of the more fun presidential campaign journeys I was able to take over the course of a half-dozen presidential campaign cycles."



McCurry said, "It was all small-town Americana.

"President Clinton would sit on the back of the 'president's car' which was a refurbished train car that I believe had been used in previous presidential whistle-stops. [It was] antique and beautiful. "He had a sound system and would call out to citizens who lined the train route. 'Love your dog!' was one of his favorites, to the point that the press adopted it as a favorite meme to evoke a giggle." Clinton "waved to everyone, even those with anti-Clinton or Dole '96 banners, sometimes with the slightest of scowls," McCurry said.

Editor's note: Edward Segal (APIC 1481) is author of Whistle-Stop Politics: Campaign Trains and the Reporters Who Covered Them. He is one of the few people to organize a modern-day whistle-stop campaign train tour. He served as a campaign manager, press secretary, and aide to Democratic and Republican presidential and congressional candidates. Learn more about his book at WhistleStopPolitics.com.



Continued from page 11.

One reminder of his admiration for Truman was Carter's bringing back the infamous "The Buck Stops Here" sign Truman kept on his desk. "Passing the buck" originated in poker when a marker, often a buckhorn-handled knife, was passed to indicate the player didn't want to deal.

In a 1951 speech, Truman said, "You know, it's easy for the Monday morning quarterback to say what the coach should have done, after the game is over. But when the decision is up before you -- and on my desk I have a motto which says 'The Buck Stops Here' -- the decision has to be made."

According to the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, Margaret Truman gave Carter a replica of the famous sign, and this was the one that Carter placed atop his Resolute desk in the Oval Office.

Writer's note: The Jimmy Carter Political Items Collectors chapter of APIC presented as a 90th birthday gift to President Carter an autographed copy of Truman's Mr. Citizen at their annual banquet in 2014.

I was at a lunch in Marion, AL, in 2013, attended by former Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley. I mentioned that his predecessor was an admirer of Ronald Reagan. Bentley told me he loved Reagan but he really admired Truman. I excused myself and retrieved "The Buck Stops Here" sign from my campus office and gave it to the governor. He later sent me a note and said he displayed it in the Alabama governor's office during his term. Bentley is a Republican, and like Carter, a Baptist deacon.

The One George W. Bush Lost

By Greg Thompson, APIC 4225



Long before he was elected governor of Texas and then President of the United States, a young, upstart George W. Bush decisively lost his first election – an unlikely 1978 race for Congress on the windswept, treeless plains of West Texas.

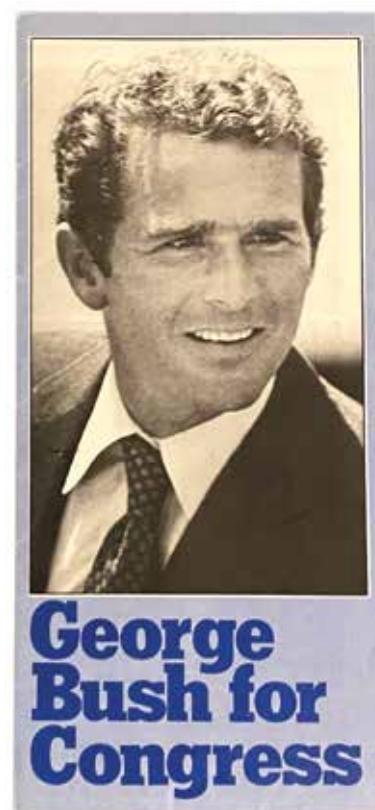
Congressman George Mahon, one of the powerful Southern Democrats who ruled Congress at the time, retired in 1978 after 44 years. Everyone assumed the race for his replacement would be between former Republican Mayor of Odessa, Jim Reese, and popular Democratic state Sen. Kent Hance.

But then a 31-year-old political newcomer with a famous name surprised everyone by jumping into the race. While he grew up locally – in nearby Midland – Bush had gone to prep school and college in the Northeastern environs of his famous forebears. He was dismissed early in the race as “too preppy, too Yalie” to be truly Texan.

His father was already well known. George H.W. Bush, the son of former U.S. Sen. Prescott Bush, was a former Congressman from Houston who

had run two unsuccessful races for the U.S. Senate in

Texas and had been CIA director and envoy to China. In 1978, he was already beginning his 1980 campaign for president.



Young George W. had worked on all of his father's campaigns as well as two other high-profile GOP Senate campaigns. In his own primary, he shocked everyone by upsetting Reese for the GOP nomination. He then squared off against Hance, the wily, entertaining state senator known today as "the best storyteller in Texas." Hance was a local kid, from the little town of Dimmitt – a long way from Yale.

To the amusement of Hance's supporters, West Texas voters got their first introduction to young George W. Bush in TV ads that showed him jogging. "That might be a good ad for Highland Park or Houston or Connecticut," Hance reportedly said later. "But if a guy is jogging in Dimmitt, that means somebody is after him."

Hance's ads, meanwhile, posed him in rural settings around rural folks. The Hance ads were simple and forceful: While Bush was at Andover, Hance was at Dimmitt High School. While Bush was at Yale, Hance was at Texas Tech. While Bush was at Harvard Business School, Hance was at the University of Texas law school.

"In the Panhandle, if it's Texas Tech vs. Yale, Tech will beat Yale every time," Hance said.

Bush pointedly refused to allow his father or other famous Republicans to make campaign appearances for him. He said at the time, in a local KOSA-TV interview, "I made the announcement that we would have no Governor Reagans, or President Fords or George Bushes or John Connallys to come into the district and campaign on my behalf. I did so because I wanted the people to concentrate on the candidate. We do not need the help of people from outside of West Texas campaigning for us."

But he did raise \$400,000 – a very large sum at the time for a West Texas election – much of it from his father's friends, such as Mrs. Douglas MacArther, baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn, and former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Hance, of course, hammered Bush for these outside contributions.

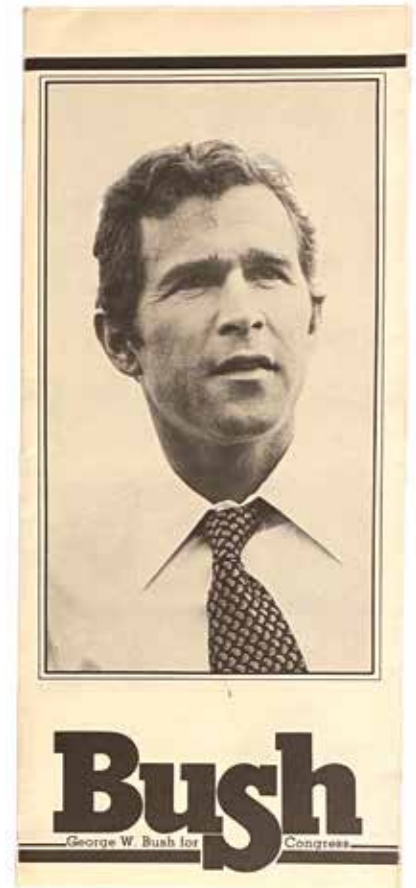
Bush lost, but he got 47 percent of the vote, the best-ever performance at that time for a Republican congressional candidate in that district. Hance went on to serve in Congress, run unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate and governorship and eventually become Chancellor of Texas Tech. He switched to the GOP in 1985.

Bush and Hance eventually became close friends and allies. In 1992, when Bush announced for governor, Hance sent him a \$10,000 campaign contribution.

After Bush won, Hance jokingly told the governor-elect that he should thank him for ending his congressional aspirations.

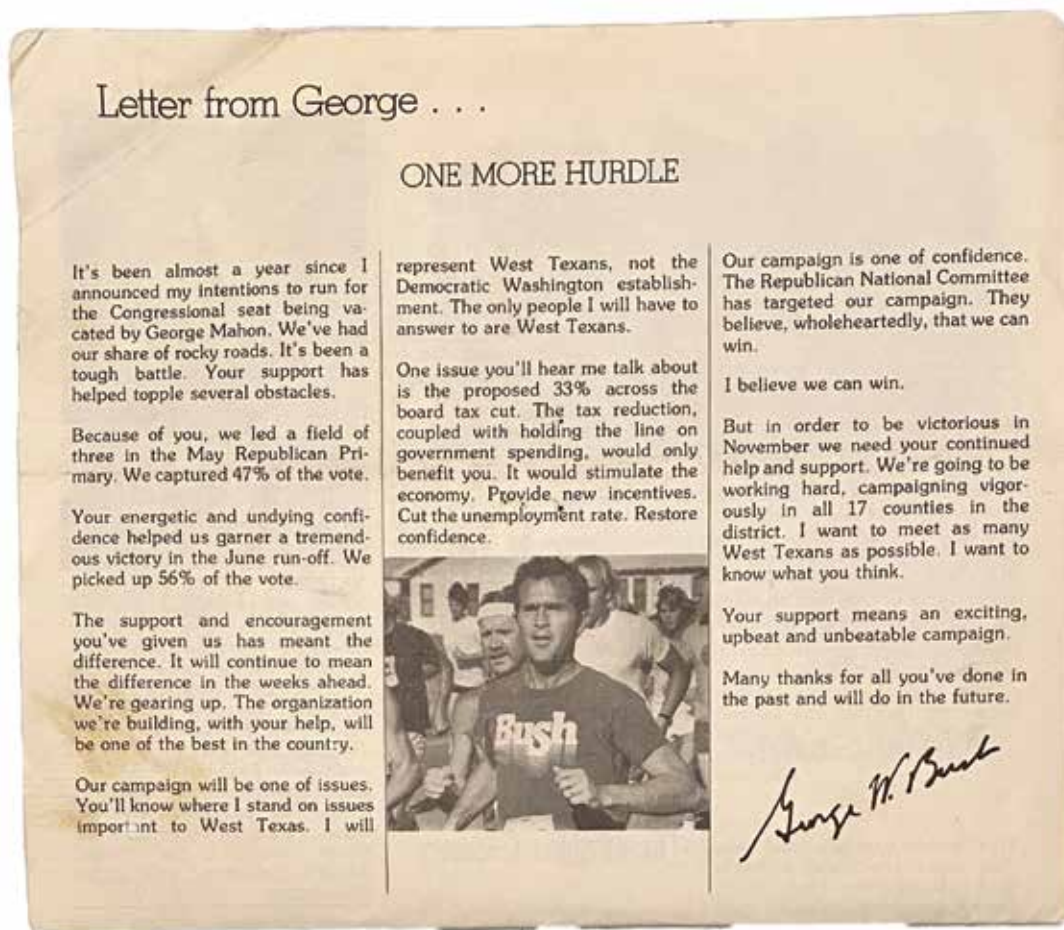
"I told him if it weren't for me, he wouldn't be governor," Hance said. "Yeah," Bush shot back. "I might be Speaker."

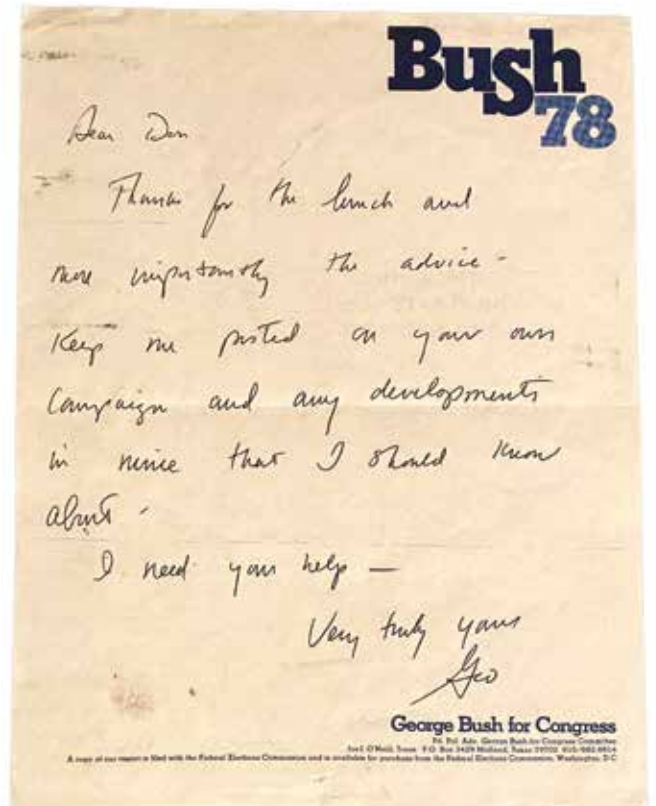
Items from the 1978 Bush campaign are very rare, especially paper items. There are two buttons known, one a litho with the campaign's logo.



There are three bumper stickers known, one of which sold for \$694 in a 2018 Anderson Auction, and a small number of brochures and palm cards. There is one known small poster/placard, featuring the campaign logo. A Bush for Congress T-shirt also is very desirable, but difficult to find.

In addition, there exists a handwritten letter by George W. Bush on 1978 campaign stationery to Don Workman, a former rodeo champion and Texas Tech regent who ran unsuccessfully in 1978 as a Democratic candidate for the state senate seat vacated by Kent Hance.





Hands Down, It's Fred Thompson

By Rand York, APIC 2878

At first glance, the slogan "Hands Down" might seem so simple as to be unimaginative. But there is a story behind it.

In December 2007, with a campaign failing to gain traction, Fred Thompson needed a Reaganesque moment to rekindle the fire of his candidacy – a moment reminiscent of the Great Communicator himself in 1980 when Reagan famously said in the New Hampshire debate, "I'm paying for this microphone!"

On Dec. 12, 2007, Thompson saw his opening when the moderator of the Des Moines Register presidential debate asked for a show of hands by all candidates who believed in global warming. Several reluctant hands began going up when Fred grabbed the spotlight.

Thompson: I'm not doing hand shows today.

Moderator: And so, is that a yes or no for you?

Thompson: You want to give me a minute to answer that?

Moderator: No.

Thompson: Well then, I'm not going to answer it.

Thompson looked and sounded presidential, as if a genuine leader – maybe even Reagan himself – had stepped onto the stage. Even his opponent Mitt Romney applauded him.

Next thing we know, Thompson's campaign bus was repainted with a new slogan for a double entendre "Hands Down" tour.

Unfortunately for Fred, who at one time had been the frontrunner for the Republican nomination, it was too little too late.



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Continued from page 5.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I always enjoy the Keynoter and this issue was especially fun to be rewarded by a surprise story about my good friends Charlene LaGrange and Julie O'Connor (Remembering a Fallen Hero, Winter 2024). It was a real treat. It brought back memories of Char I had not thought about for a long time. I sent a copy to Julie and she called me crying!

-Tom Keefe, APIC 1867

Tom Peeling's Winter 2024 Keynoter story about the infamously enterprising Dick Bristow produced a flood of memories.

When I joined APIC about 1970, I had been collecting campaign buttons since seventh grade. It all started at the 1956 county fair when I donated two-bits to the Democratic cause and received in return an "All the way with Adlai" flasher. My mom smiled. That night, she went to the hall closet and handed me a shoebox full of pins from her days as a Young Democrat at Oklahoma A&M. The array of FDR buttons, including a gorgeous 3½-inch "Re-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt," was thrilling. Mom was a Dust Bowl refugee and staunch Democrat — except in 1940 when she temporarily defected to Willkie over the third term taboo. The shoebox featured several Willkie slogan pins that anchor my 200-button Willkie frame.

But I digress. At my first APIC regional meeting in Portland, OR, Steve Bibler (APIC 138), a prince of a guy, warned me about Bristow buttons, counseling that they violated the APIC commandment that thou shalt not manufacture buttons just to sell to collectors. Bibler and John Gearhart, another great collector with impeccable integrity, also warned me to beware of sharks preying on novice collectors. If I had listened more intently, I would still have several pins that to this day I regret letting go.

As time went by, I came to think that booting Bristow was overkill. By then, his buttons were butt-ugly, as Peeling pointed out. The one I've kept says, "Scoop Jackson for McGovern and Eagleton." Washington's junior senator was a family friend. It's nice to know that, pedestrian though it may be, it pre-dated Eagleton's withdrawal from the ticket over the then-shocking news (no pun intended) that he had the good judgment to seek treatment for depression.

The Bristow back story was long overdue. Good job, Tom.

-John C. Hughes, APIC 3336

I just finished reading the latest Keynoter (Winter 2024) and not only have you restored the magazine to its former quality of decades ago, you have far surpassed that level. You have revived the collector-related stories and images which far outdo that "biographically intense" version that it had become.

I enjoyed every article from cover to cover. The issue has a warm feeling that any long-time APIC member who remembers the "good old days" of the publication will enjoy. I also appreciate the mention I received in the tribute to Bob Coup (Remembering Bob Coup, Winter 2024 Keynoter). The article pointed out one of the reasons Bob and I became such close friends. We both shared the same philosophy: the pins and posters are great pieces of history, but the most important part of this hobby is the people. And I teared up as I read and re-read those pages.

-Harvey Goldberg, APIC 3158

I really enjoyed the Dick Bristow story (Winter 2024 Keynoter). Since I am APIC 2671, I well remember Dick, both as a member and an excommunicated member. I started collecting in 1968 with the few buttons that I picked up at various headquarters. Somehow I ended up on a mailing list, and in early 1969 Dick offered by mail 100 different 1968 buttons for about \$6 or so. That was a lot of money for an 11 year old, but I saved it. Soon my big, padded envelope arrived. It was like Christmas day. Fifty-six years later, and I still have most of those buttons in my collection. Thanks again for a great read. PS: I have none of his 1972 buttons. I thought then and think now that they are eyesores! I know, to each his own....

-James Rogan, APIC 2671

I wanted to tell you that I immensely enjoyed both the article on Dick Bristow (Winter 2024 Keynoter) and, as well, the one on Bob Coup. Keep up the good work on the Keynoter.

-Jeff Kolpek, APIC 2523

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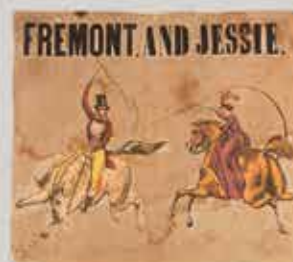
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