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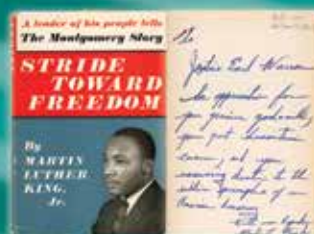
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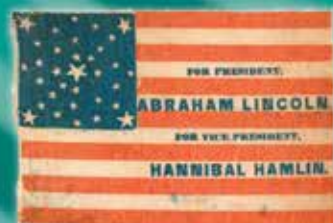
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FROM THE APIC PRESIDENT

Each of us collects and preserves political memorabilia differently. Some focus on finding items from a single presidential candidate, political party or cause, while others collect ephemera only from candidates who have run for state or local office. And while most of us prefer celluloid and lithograph pinback buttons, others are drawn to posters, paper brochures, ribbons and more. I'm one of those less disciplined collectors who likes to amass at least a little of everything from the broad political spectrum, much to my wife's chagrin.



While finding a great item for my collection is a joy, one aspect of my APIC membership that I especially treasure is getting the chance to read about (and even see in person) the collections of other members.

For example, in this issue is an overview of Drew Hecht's amazing collection. I'm fortunate enough to live close to Drew and to have pored over his collection in person, which is akin to visiting a fine museum. Not only does Drew have great examples of items from every presidential election, they are displayed beautifully with a smart sense of history. From posters and ribbons to pinbacks and more, I can call out a year or a candidate, and Drew can quickly point or pull out a drawer that displays some of the finest political items from the period that I requested. Frankly, it's a reflection of what a lifetime of intelligent collecting can achieve.

Drew is not alone in APIC. I've been lucky enough to visit a wide range of APIC members across the country, and what they all have in common is a dedication to our hobby. They love finding items that illustrate their passions and are happy to share those items with visitors. I joke with other members that when a friend or neighbor visits our house and asks what I collect, I typically take the same approach: I ask what former president they like best and when they name that person, I pull out a Riker mount to show them what I have. I usually describe the significance of some of the items and their place in history, but after about 10 minutes (and sometimes even less) their eyes glaze over and they're ready to return to the present after a brief visit to the past. I don't blame them – collecting political Americana isn't for everyone and I appreciate their willingness to ask and spend a few minutes hearing more than they likely wanted to know.

Fortunately, when visiting the home of a fellow APIC member, that is rarely the case. We both relish seeing whatever we've collected, and we appreciate the fun stories we can share of how we found our prized items, whether "in the wild" or after a late night of fevered bidding in an auction. I've developed many lifelong friendships this way, and I encourage each of you to invite other members into your home to share the stories behind your collection. I feel certain you'll be glad that you did.

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



No, the *Keynoter* has not become *Cosmopolitan* magazine, despite the model-like young lady on the cover in a snazzy Nixon dress. But it does highlight how much variety is in this hobby of ours. Buttons only? Hardly.

Barb Zaczek (APIC 16515) is one of my favorite APIC members. She's always willing to help when needed and she has quite the eclectic collection. So when I asked her if she had something to contribute to the *Keynoter*, she eagerly offered to write about political clothing, specifically dresses of the '50s and '60s. I jumped at the offer.

Self-effacing as always, she was quick to note that I certainly needed to mention that Harvey Sullivan of Tennessee (APIC 15970) not only provided photos of his extensive Ike clothing collection for this article, but a lot of information in helping Barb make this a more complete story.

I have been to Harvey's house near Knoxville. He is a very gracious host and is delighted to show off his amazing Ike collection. One of the highlights is the Ike room where various mannequins model the clothing. They're not nearly as cute as the Zaczek family model on the cover of the *Keynoter*, however.

So hats off to you, Harvey, for your help making this different kind of cover story more complete. And Barb, thanks for talking your daughter Natalie McIntosh and a family friend, who wishes to remain anonymous, into modeling those dresses for this story.

On another note, in my column in the spring *Keynoter* I mentioned a Lincoln story from an old *Political Collector* magazine was running in the edition. It was inadvertently left out. So it's included in this edition.

Tom Peeling, *Keynoter* Editor

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NEXT ISSUE-- The ethnic history of New York City 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.*

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



Another great job on the (see When Billy Taft Came to Town, Spring 2025) Keynoter. Taft made another trip to Indiana. I thought you might be interested in the photo I've attached of William Howard Taft in front of the Red Cross Canteen in Evansville, Ind. The portly gentleman in the far right of the second row is Evansville's dynamic and

highly successful mayor, Benjamin Bosse, my great-great-uncle.

-Jeff Bosse, APIC 1343

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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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Dressing for the Win

By Barbara Zaczek, APIC 16515

At the end of WWII, 6 million American women surrendered their war-time jobs to returning soldiers, heading home to resume the role of housewife. But these women were now armed with new skills, an understanding of the workforce, a taste of financial freedom, and an awareness of their own political voice. Meanwhile, these luxury-starved Americans enjoyed the post-war economic boom, buying starter homes in new suburbs financed by the G.I. Bill and war privation savings.

Appliances, fast cars, and designer-inspired fashions were marketed straight into their living rooms on the new-fangled, affordable television. Americans scrambled to emulate the elegance and style of Hollywood, women were garbed in wide-skirted cocktail dresses as they met their husbands at the door, offering the perfect martini, while their nuclear family of two children played in the yard. But underneath this façade of happy families stirred the beginnings of a social rebellion that would come to a head at the end of the 1960s.

Republican presidential candidate Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower saw the reaction of displaced women, relegated back to their old social positions, and his 1952 campaign capitalized on the energy and unrest of women by addressing the need for more rights and social independence for women. As part of his brilliant marketing and campaign strategy, Eisenhower commissioned designer and poodle skirt inventor Juli Lynne Charlet to make a whimsical “Ike” poodle skirt, designed to appeal to and draw in the younger female voter. The poodle skirt was easy to make, featuring a large circle of felt fabric cinched at the waist that flared when the wearer twirled, the perfect sock-hop ensemble.

Charlot’s skirt featured, “I Like Ike,” centered between an elephant and a donkey boxing applique on one side and a cutout of the White House on the other side. Women and girls across the country jumped on the political skirt bandwagon, making their own Ike skirts in a show of patriotism and unity.



While the poodle skirt for Ike dominated the 1952 campaign, in Tennessee a group of women ordered matching dresses to be worn by all volunteers at the Nashville headquarters on election night. This blue skirt dress, stamped with the word "Ike" all over the fabric, had the "New Look" style of fitted bodice and billowing skirt, but with $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeve, and was manufactured by the Hartley Garment Co. This dress is exhibited at the Tennessee State Museum and is thought to be the inspiration for Jerry Gilden's 1956 Ike dress. Very few remain.

For Eisenhower's re-election campaign, he once again commissioned Juli Lynne Charlet. This time the skirt starred a Republican elephant waving a banner that read, "More than ever, I like Ike," alongside an applique of the White House. By 1956, the poodle skirt was ubiquitous throughout the country, part of the defining style of 1950s "Rock & Roll," and, as a campaign uniform, didn't inspire the same trendy enthusiasm as 1952.

The outfit that rocked the country was designer Jerry Gilden's dress. With "IKE" printed in vivid red on a white background, the gown echoed Christian Dior's "New Look," a cinched waist, full skirt, soft shoulders, and scooped neck. Gilden introduced his "IKE" dress as part of his ready-to-wear collection and sold thousands. Eisenhower courted the Latina community and enthusiastic Hispanic women donned this dress for campaigning in minority communities. During the campaign, thousands of "Ike Girls" of all races across the nation, in matching gloves and parasols, marched in parades and cheered at rallies to land Eisenhower his second victory against Democratic opponent Adlai Stevenson II.

Vice President Richard Nixon secured the Republican presidential candidacy for 1960, but the lackluster relationship existing between President Eisenhower and Nixon had been watched by the American public for eight years. Eisenhower's limited appearances at Nixon campaign rallies was interpreted as lack of endorsement, although it could have been from Ike's failing health. By the time Eisenhower endorsed Nixon, it was too late. Nixon's 1960 campaign tried to spark the campaign frenzy of the Ike dress, using the same style, fabric and design except with a red "NIXON", but to no avail. The "New Look" was passé.





On the other side, the 1960 campaign of John F. Kennedy saw a country exhausted from McCarthyism, trapped in a terrifying Cold War, experiencing high unemployment and more conservative spending. Kennedy was a relatively unknown candidate who captured women's hearts while winning over male supporters with his handsome charismatic countenance. Kennedy "Cuties" wearing dresses of red and white or red/white/blue vertical strips cinched at the waist with a wide, blue belt with "Kennedy" sewn in white letters across the front, greeted delegates at the airport in California for the 1960 Democratic Convention.

But things changed for the next election. Political unrest about the Vietnam War, Civil Rights protests and integration clashes marked Lyndon Johnson's 1964 campaign. LBJ projected an image of down-home western ranch stability during his presidential campaign. At the Atlantic City 1964 Democratic National Convention, "Johnson Jersey Girls" greeted delegates while dressed in a white shirt dress with LBJ embroidered on the left breast pocket, accessorized with a thin red/white/blue belt and a large straw hat featuring a red/white/blue vertical ribbon, but the trend didn't catch on. Johnson's most popular wearable campaign items for women were tailored scarves and jewelry.

Barry Goldwater, a fiercely conservative politician appalled by the Civil Rights movement and protests against the Vietnam War, was backed by Americans terrified by the threat of nuclear war. His "Goldwater Girls" outfit appealed to young female supporters: white shirt, a vivid yellow poodle skirt cinched at the waist with a white belt, a wide blue collar fringed in white with Goldwater printed in gold ink, a saucy yellow neck scarf and a white cowboy hat. Goldwater dresses were very popular in conservative communities and Hillary Clinton was a Goldwater girl while she was still in high school in Illinois. These girls marched in parades, handed out literature, and welcomed delegates to the Republican National Convention in San Francisco in 1964.



By 1968, the USA was embroiled in vicious Civil Rights/race riots, while Vietnam War losses and high casualties caused emotions to run high. When LBJ backed out of the presidential campaign a week before primaries, the Democratic Party quickly fielded three contenders: Hubert Humphrey, Robert F. Kennedy and Eugene McCarthy. For Republicans, Nelson Rockefeller, Ronald Reagan, George Romney, and former Vice President Richard Nixon dominated the field, and the polarizing governor from Alabama, George Wallace, came out as a powerful third-party candidate, advocating racial segregation.

The 1968 presidential campaign clothing appealed to fashion-conscious young women, as quirky styles mixed with campaign novelties. One of the most unusual political dresses was made of paper. In 1966, Scott Paper Co. introduced a durable weave paper dress, available for \$1.25 and accompanied by a packet of coupons for their products, as just another promotion to sell their disposable tableware. Much to their surprise, the promotion took off, rocketing into a craze that lasted through 1969.

At its zenith, one manufacturer was producing 80,000 dresses a week. Pop Art and Culture, vivid colors, Mary Quant space age, mini dress, “mod” designs, even Campbell soup cans by Andy Warhol were printed on the dresses. Presidential candidates had their names and/or images printed on paper dresses, as a variety of vendors jumped on the paper dress mania. The paper dress for Richard Nixon is probably the most common of the paper political dresses.

Nixon also had a stylish fabric shift dress designed to attract the women’s vote, a tailored red/white/blue dress depicting a huge N, to be worn with a Nixon scarf. A matching man’s Nehru jacket was produced, but in limited numbers. Bumper stickers, paper ephemera and jewelry also carried the “N” logo theme in the 1968 campaign.

For the democrats, Humphrey commissioned “mod” clothing and jewelry from fashion designer Frankie Welch, introducing the H-line dress worn by the hostesses on April 27, 1968 at a luncheon where he announced his candidacy for president. Welch chose an emerald green, sapphire blue, and white color scheme. Ultimately, he created dresses, shirts, scarves, “hippie” jewelry of huge earrings, disc & chain belts, crazy green sunglasses, all using this color palette. Welch also designed an inaugural scarf for Nixon.

By the 1972 election, day-to-day fashion clothing had become more casual, jeans the universal unisex fashion. The days of ultra-feminine, nationwide political fashion trends were over.



Women's political collectible clothing still features some great items such as the Billy Beer sun dress and the Obama pajamas. Each candidate seems to have inspired one trend or another, but today, baseball caps and T-shirts dominate the clothing of both male and female campaign supporters.

Editor's note: Many thanks to Harvey Sullivan (APIC 15970) in Tennessee for the photos of his Ike dresses to use with this article.



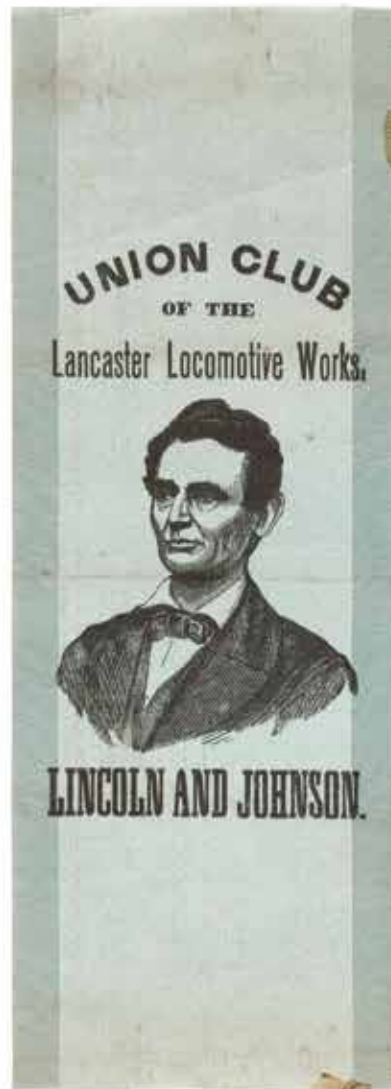
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MY THREE FAVORITE FINDS

Collecting Buffalo's History

By Becky Peeling, Keynoter Associate Editor

Buffalo, NY, figures prominently in the favorite finds of long-time collector Bren Price, APIC 3965. That is not surprising since Price is a founding member of the Buffalo Presidential Center and collector of "all things Buffalo."

The Cleveland Club 66 ribbon is a rare artifact that Price acquired from the estate of APIC member Mark Evans, who also was a founding member of the Buffalo Presidential Center.

"This piece has a special meaning," Price says due to his friendship with the Avon, NY, collector.

The 66 club refers to the delegates who voted to give Cleveland the nomination for president in 1883. Price says that the delegates to the convention held in Syracuse had to convince Cleveland to run. Those delegates carried their enthusiasm for his candidacy to Buffalo where the members wore the badge.

Price, who also collects suffrage items, could not pass on the Belva Lockwood mechanical card when it was offered to him. He acquired the piece at a gathering of serious antique dealers who regularly meet for breakfast where they "wheel and deal." Price is fortunate to have been included and he has bought and sold a few items there.

This risqué item is among the pieces circulated to satirize Lockwood, who was born in the Buffalo suburb of Royalton and ran as a third-party presidential candidate in 1884 and 1888. The piece, which shows her political opponent looking up her skirt while thumbing his nose, is on display at the Buffalo Presidential Center to honor the "unpopular but brilliant, self-made woman."

Price notes that politics always has had its nasty side.



"I point out to people when I lecture around town that the campaigns going back to Adams, Jefferson, John Quincy Adams and Jackson have used audacity," Price says. "Politics always were and always will be (that way)."

Speaking about finding political items, he says that while he still goes to the flea market on Sundays, the pickings "have dried up and there isn't much around anymore." From time to time, he will place ads in the local newspaper.

"A guy called two days ago," Price says. "He had clipped my ad two years ago and I am going to go look at what he has."

His third favorite find came to him from Heritage Auctions. While a conventional way to expand a collection, this auction offered "just a special piece" that fit perfectly with Price's interest in Buffalo and Lincoln. In his retirement, Price leads historic walking tours of Buffalo that include a mention of Lincoln's funeral train coming through the city and the two services held there. The commemorative menu is from a restaurant two blocks from the funeral site and just 3 ½ blocks from the Buffalo Presidential Center.

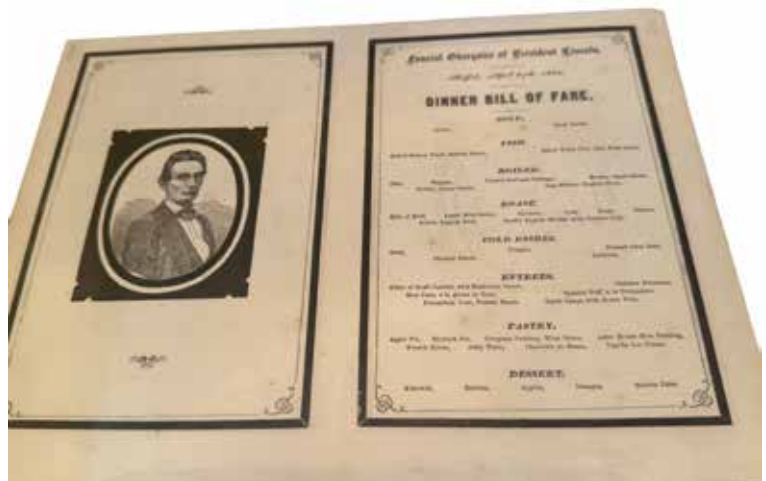
"Ray Farina (APIC 7347) told me about the menu that was part of a group," Price recalls. "If it's in Heritage, you know that the auction is competitive. I was hoping for a reasonable price. I won the bid and sold the other five items that came with the menu, so in the end I paid very little for it."

"I take it with me every time I talk about Lincoln. I have three talks coming up this month – to a history society, a library and a local group."

Price credits Chris Hearn, APIC 1333, with getting him started collecting political items. They met at Hobart College in Geneva, NY, in the early 1970s. Hearn, a student there, had written an article in the Hobart College reunion magazine that piqued Price's interest. They met at Hearn's fraternity house where his room was filled with campaign buttons and posters as he wrote to many candidates requesting items.

Back then Price might not have envisioned that he would be part of the Monroe B. Wade Chapter of APIC for some 40 years, serving as treasurer for 38 years. Just recently turning age 80, Price's current collecting interests include Filmore, Cleveland, Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

Having lived these past 20 years in Buffalo, Price describes the city and the ephemera connected with it as "one of my passions in retirement."



It Might not be THAT 'KKK'

By Lon Ellis, APIC 2881

While this ribbon refers to no particular location, research for 1888 only produced one inconclusive possibility for its origins – Evansville, Ind.

During the campaign year of 1888, the Business Men's Association of Evansville, described as men "who possessed capital and intelligence" wanted to bring visibility to the prosperity of Evansville, promoting it as the "metropolis of the Ohio Valley." Extensive planning resulted in a week-long event described as a State Encampment that was to have a Mardi-Gras atmosphere with elaborate costumes, carnivals, and parades. Tickets were sold all over town and the parade order was announced ahead of time with the King Komus Krew leading the parade.

One article, describing the order of the parade, said "it was decided to give the young Ku Klux Klan the position of honor just in the rear of Warren's band." This event was so significant that the Evansville *Daily Journal* newspaper issued a special 19-page souvenir edition specifically for the encampment.

If this ribbon was truly issued for this event, is it possible that the "K.K.K." on

the ribbon signifies "King Komus Krew" or "Ku Klux Klan?" If not issued for this event, then what? An unusual ribbon for sure, but an unsolved mystery.



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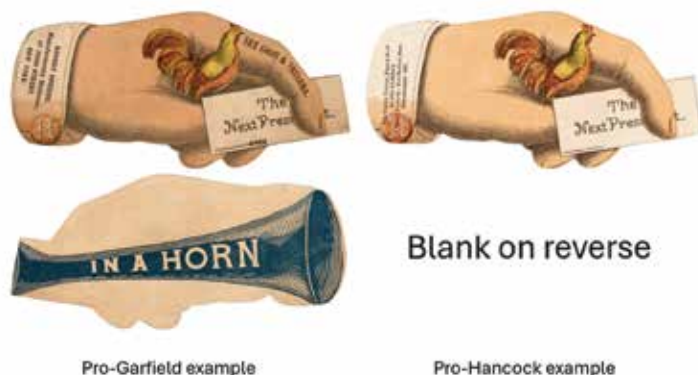
By David Holcomb, APIC 5993

I have always loved this Hancock rebus trade card. I was fortunate enough to pick up one and was curious by the illustration of a horn and the phrase "In A Horn" printed on the back. Truth be told, I was surprised to learn that some are pro-Hancock, and others are pro-Garfield by being anti-Hancock. I have seen about eight different variations of the trade card, some just blank and others for different merchants and papers. Many, if not most, do not have the horn printed on the back or the "See Ohio & Indiana" along with the "over."

In the Spring 2013 issue of the *Keynoter*, the piece was mentioned briefly but nothing about its use as an anti-Hancock piece. A clue to discovering what the horn was all about is the addition of "See Ohio & Indiana" printed on the pointer finger and the addition of "over" encouraging the viewer to turn the card over.

In the 19th century the expression "in a horn" was sarcasm, meaning just the opposite of what was being stated. It was used the same way we use the sarcastic reply today of "yeah, right." It's like the expression "in a pig's eye." The 1880 presidential election was determined by how Ohio and Indiana voted. The month prior to the presidential election, Ohio and Indiana conducted state elections and both states went strongly Republican. Most observers felt that it was a bellwether for how the presidential election would go, and it was. The presidential election was very tight, and Garfield only won the popular vote by under 2,000 out of about 9 million ballots. In Ohio and Indiana, however, his margin of victory was about 41,000 votes, taking both states' electoral votes. So, the trade card, by saying sarcastically "in a horn" to Hancock, the next president, and "pointing" the viewer to Ohio and Indiana, the card becomes pro-Garfield.

On another note, my example of this trade card is for Robert Sneider, engraver and printer of New York City. He was the successor of George H. Lovett who was an engraver and medalist in NYC and creator of so many of the presidential medals that we in the hobby love to collect. Robert Sneider in later campaigns went on to sell the moonstone pieces for Harrison and Cleveland along with the manufacture of the small torchlight stickpins with RWB wicks. Sneider produced the 1½" Patriots Medal of 1896 with the bust of McKinley on the obverse and "This Medal Was Struck In Commemoration Of The Patriots Of 1896 Who Voted For An Honest Dollar" on the reverse.



Upon the results of the October elections in Ohio and Indiana the New York Herald has the following which we refer to our Democratic readers :

The peculiarity of the result in those States is that it surprised the managers of both parties. It was not gained by manipulation; it showed in a very decided way a strong and unsuspected set of popular sentiment, a something in the popular mind of which the party managers of neither side knew anything, and that something, that set of the tide of opinion, is decidedly against the Democrats. Being found in Ohio and Indiana, there is every reason to expect that it will manifest itself even more strongly in other States in November. Indeed, it has already shown itself here and at other prominent commercial and industrial centers in a buoyancy of securities, an improvement in markets, a rise in stocks, which shows that, to the shrewdest and quickest witted part of our people, the strong probability of Republican success in November means increased stability in affairs.

APIC MEMBER PROFILE:**Christen Carter, APIC 16585*****By Adam Gottlieb, APIC 4864***

Not many APIC members can claim to be an author, museum curator and button manufacturer, on top of the generic label of button enthusiast. Enter Chicago-based Christen Carter (APIC 16585) who wears all those hats and still finds time to collect.

As co-owner of Busy Beaver Buttons and the Button Museum (www.buttonmuseum.org), Carter sees her work and hobby dovetail nicely. Her company, established in 1995, produces approximately 3 million buttons annually for a variety of clients, including nonprofit causes and political campaigns.

"I get a lot of inspiration from how people have used pinback buttons since 1896. Plus, I love learning about the history of the manufacturers that existed before me. Even though buttons seem niche, it's fascinating how they tell the history of the U.S.," Carter said.

Carter, 53, has been an avid member since joining the APIC in 2010. Since that time, she has been active in collecting, promoting the Button Museum, and speaking at APIC National Conventions. In 2016, she attended her first National Convention in Harrisburg, PA, and met her mentor, Ted Hake (APIC 292).

She was twelve when she bought her first button with money she earned babysitting. It wasn't political.

"It was a Snoopy and Woodstock button that I got while on vacation with my family in London. I really found Woodstock particularly charming, and I could afford it," Carter said.

While she began collecting buttons in her twenties, Carter admitted "buttons were a must-have when I got into punk music as a teenager. I started picking up buttons that caught my eye. Then, the idea of the Button Museum came to me. I became focused on being a generalist."

Working with her brother, Joel, the Button Museum was born in 2010.

Housed online and within Busy Beaver Button Co.'s Chicago office, the Button Museum is the world's only pinback button museum. It includes buttons from every year since the pinback's original 1896 patent, as well as predecessors like a George Washington inauguration clothing button and an 1860 Abraham Lincoln campaign pin.

Organized by category and date, the online Button Museum is home to more than 30,000 pins of different shapes, sizes and colors. It features categories such as political, art, advertising, sports, social cause, music, and more.



These artifacts represent the cultural and personal histories of the past. By viewing these everyday wearable objects, museum attendees can understand how the people of each era commented on noteworthy events.

"The online Button Museum is a great resource for researching all kinds of buttons with many fascinating profiles of button-making companies over the past 130 years," said Ted Hake, APIC 292, who co-authored a book with Carter.

"Since we're a non-profit organization," Carter said, "we are in contact with other statewide historical organizations. We've loaned buttons to the Chicago History Museum for an exhibit on activism in the 1970s. Additionally, we've lent buttons to local libraries and have allowed publications to use our images. It's fun to give these buttons a broader reach."

While 1,000 people visited the physical museum this past year, nearly 100,000 online visitors from throughout the world clicked on the website.

"People love that it's sort of off-beat and are often surprised just how interesting buttons are. I want everyone to see the rich cultural history represented by these little items," she said.

Carter focuses on anything that tells American history through buttons. In a nod to her last name, she says that she's received numerous Carter campaign buttons as gifts and even has one signed by the 39th President.

As new collectors seek her advice, Carter suggests collecting what you like.

"Buttons are a very accessible to start," she said. "You can buy a button from 1896 for \$1; buttons represent things so broadly you can focus on what really interests you. The APIC community is also a bunch of very smart, engaged people who love to talk with new collectors, so it's fun to go to the conventions and shows."

When asked about reaching out and attracting more female collectors to the APIC, Carter had some ideas.

"I think bringing in more pop culture stuff to APIC shows will help," she said. "I know it's the 'American Political Items Collectors,' but we already have so much beyond just politics. Broadening that could attract more women."

Carter finds many reasons to collect buttons.

"I love the beautiful designs and unique messages," she said. "The little snippets of how people shared ideas and celebrated things tell a personal history. I also have a soft spot for promotional buttons made by button companies to promote themselves, punk buttons, and buttons about, well, buttons! Right now, I'm focused on school homecoming buttons from the 1960s and 1970s where the local teams would 'trash talk' opposing schools."

It was her passion which led her to collaborate with Ted Hake to write *Button Power: 125 Years of Saying It with Buttons*. Released in 2020, the hefty tome covers social causes, artists, athletes, actors, political figures, punk and pop musicians, and mascots during the past 125 years.

"Working with (Ted) was one of the most fun things I've done in my life. He knows absolutely everything about buttons," Carter said.



For research on the book, they reviewed and considered approximately 20,000 buttons. Eventually, they narrowed the buttons down to 1,500 photographs that grace the pages of the nearly two-pound book.

"It was a real full-circle moment for me because I first learned about Ted when I was doing research to buy Busy Beaver Button Co.'s first button-making machine. I was curious if there were any books on buttons and discovered Ted's Collectable Pinback Buttons in the library's reference section.

Since 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of Busy Beaver Button Co., Carter and her team plan to celebrate the occasion by honoring their customers and the business. If you're in Chicago on Sept. 13, consider dropping by the Button Museum, get Christen to sign your copy of "Button Power," and maybe pick up a pinback.



Continued from page 5.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for publishing my article about campaign trains in the (Spring 2025) issue of the Keynoter. While I was happy to see that you featured the images I sent for the piece (including the cover of my new book), I am sorry that the credits I sent with the images of the memorabilia – which were generously provided by fellow APIC member John Vargo and Claire Jerry of the National Museum of American History – were not included in the published article. Some items also came from my personal collection.

-Edward Segal, APIC 1481

Continued page 31.

Wanted



**Theodore Roosevelt
items**

Tom Peeling
TRbuttons@aol.com

**Best prices paid for items
I need for my collection.**

The Business of Goldwater

By Cary Jung, APIC 4435

Political hobbyists often have items in their collection that start off as innocent finds. But upon further review, they can yield a wonderful back story.

The Goldwater poster shown here fits that description. I had not seen it before. What first caught my eye were the graphics and the Southern California union bug. The best was yet to come.

At the outset of the 1964 presidential campaign, California was not the blue state it is today. The only Democrats since 1900 to carry the state for president were Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Voters had elected just three Democratic governors. What happened next was a rare occurrence.

In that era, GOP presidential nominee Barry Goldwater campaigned hard in the Golden State. He had family members in Southern California and held an early campaign event in September 1963 at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. The event drew 40,000 people, making it the largest Republican rally that Southern California had seen since Thomas Dewey appeared there in the presidential campaign of 1944. Goldwater would return in 1964 for a pair of rallies at the Los Angeles Sports Arena, and an encore appearance at Dodger Stadium in the final weeks of the campaign. But what happened next was even more strange.

Three Los Angeles residents in July 1964 organized the Businessmen for Goldwater group. Its incorporation papers identified it as a nonpartisan group to support the Goldwater campaign in California. Its Executive Director was Howard Jarvis. In 1978, Jarvis would gain national recognition as the driving force behind Proposition 13, which slashed property taxes in California. But in 1964 he was better known as a political gadfly and his group set off a series of events that blew up in their faces.

According to news reports, the group got off to a rocky start and never found its footing. California Secretary of State Frank Jordan, a Goldwater supporter, informed the group later in July that their formation papers could not be accepted by the state. That's because Arizona Sen. Goldwater had not formally agreed to the use of his name by the group as required by state law. Oops.

The Orange County Republican Central Committee in August 1964 accused the group of false solicitation of money using Goldwater's name. Jarvis strongly denied the charge. State Republican Party leaders echoed the criticisms from local party organizations. Another local newspaper story that summer critical of the group had the provocative headline "Swindlers Use Goldwater Name in Gyp Scheme." But it got messier still.



The courts became involved by October, with a judge granting an injunction prohibiting Businessmen for Goldwater from conducting fundraising activities. Before a trial was held, the group disbanded. It is not known if any of the money collected by the organization made it to the Goldwater campaign.

You never know what treasures you'll find on your collecting journey. But it's the hunt that makes this hobby so joyous and adds so much more depth to history.



Recalling Lincoln's Election

Keynoter Editor's note: Reprinted from the August 1971 *Political Americana* newspaper.

Editor's note: The following letter appeared in the July 19, 1940 issue of The New York Times. Because it is interesting as far as collectors are concerned, it is reprinted here. The letter is a reply to an article that appeared in the Times a few days earlier.

In reference to your editorial "Political Buttons," I desire to record the fact that campaign buttons go back at least to Lincoln's second campaign. At the time I was a very small boy, but for weeks prior to the election had been proudly displaying a Lincoln button, and my father allowed me to draw upon his supply to decorate the blouses of neighbors' children.

Perhaps it is not quite correct to speak of them as buttons, as they were square metal frames containing printed portraits of Lincoln – about the size of a postage stamp – and fastened by a pin, as is the present campaign device.

On the morning after Lincoln was shot, my mother cut up an old crepe mourning veil and formed small rosettes to be fastened beneath these pictures on the lapel of the coat.

Among my chums were three small sons of a neighbor who was an ardent sympathizer with the Southern cause, and naturally not very popular in the community. They saw my badge, and, boy-like, wanted to be similarly decorated. It was with decided pleasure that my mother fitted them out with the badges of sorrow, much to the disgust of their father, who did not dare to defy public opinion.

Drew Hecht (APIC 2418)

Tom Peeling, Keynoter Editor

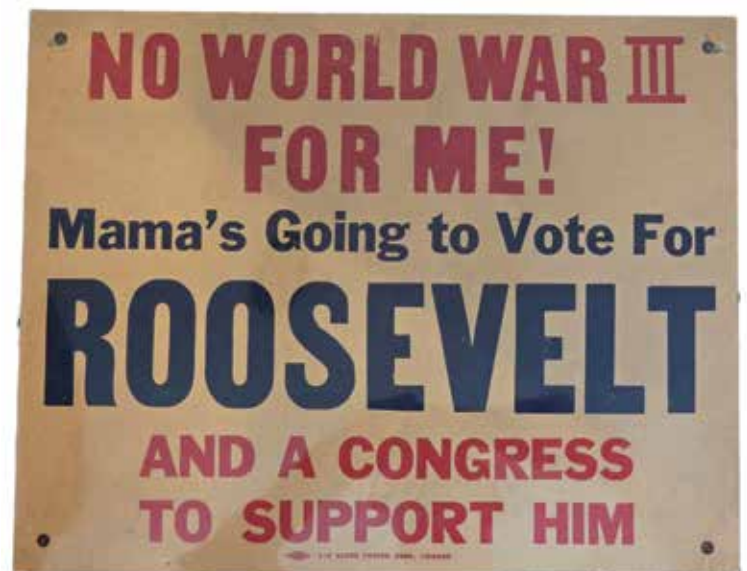
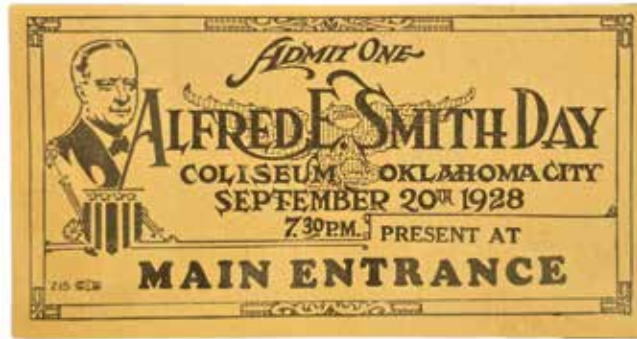
Drew Hecht (APIC 2418), who lives in Yardley, PA, is a retired doctor. I truly hope he never retires from political collecting because his collection is an amazing one to see. I have had the fortune of seeing it twice, and in the second visit I saw so many items I didn't recall seeing the time before. I'm not sure if he added new items, or there were just too many wonderful items to remember them all.

It's hard to pick up a Riker mount at his house and not gasp. Literally every tray had a couple pins in it that I had never seen before.

While at his house in February of this year, I took a few photos of some rarer items that I hope you will enjoy seeing. It was hard to narrow down the photos to present this selection. I could easily have filled the entire *Keynoter* issue with amazing items. Enjoy.









Announcing the APIC Mark Jacobs 2026 Smithsonian Internship Program

2026 Application

Six Week Summer Internship

**Application Deadline
Dec. 31st, 2025**

for 2026 summer program.

For more information and
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Scott Jasnoch
8 Crestview Dr.
Kearney, NE 68845
Phone: (308) 293-5325
jasnochscott@gmail.com

GREAT OPPORTUNITY!



ATTN: GRADUATE LEVEL STUDENTS

The American Political Items Collectors (APIC) sponsor one 6-week summer internship at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Served in the Political History Department of the Smithsonian's Museum of American History under the supervision of the Curator. The internship is open to graduate level students. History or political science majors are desired and overall good character is required. A dormitory room at George Washington University (or the equivalent) and a weekly stipend are also provided.

In 1826, British scientist James Smithson drew up his last will and testament, naming his nephew as beneficiary. Smithson stipulated that, should the nephew die without heirs (as he would six years later in 1835), the estate should go "to the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." The U.S. government was soon notified of this extraordinary bequest, and President A. Jackson announced it to Congress, which accepted the legacy bequeathed to the nation and pledged the faith of the U.S. to the charitable trust July 1, 1836. After eight years of sometimes heated debate, an Act of Congress signed by President Polk Aug. 10, 1846, established the Smithsonian Institution as a trust to be administered by a Board of Regents and a Secretary of the Smithsonian. Since its founding, the Smithsonian has become the world's largest museum, education and research complex, with 19 museums, the National Zoo and nine research facilities.

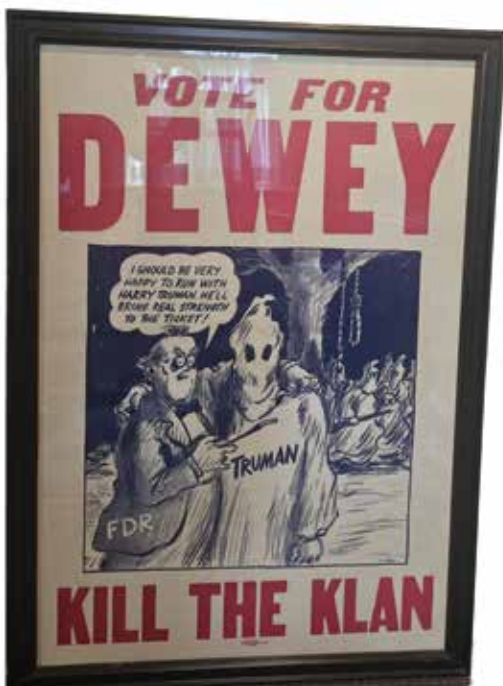


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The Clarence Jordan Connection

By Michael J. Brooks, APIC 8647

Former Carter White House chief-of-staff, Hamilton Jordan, wrote in his 2000 book, “No Such Thing as A Bad Day,” about his father’s cousin, Clarence Jordan, whom he called “Uncle Clarence.”

“As I grew older, I learned to both understand and appreciate my unusual Uncle Clarence and began to visit him — without my parents’ knowledge — once or twice a year, starting with my junior year in high school. G.K. Chesterton once said, ‘The only problem with Christianity is that no one has ever tried it.’ Chesterton obviously never met my Uncle Clarence” (pp. 120-121).

Clarence Jordan founded Koinonia Farms in Americus, Ga., in 1942, wishing to demonstrate that people of different races could live and work together in harmony.

“Koinonia” (coin-uh-NEE-uh) is a Greek word used in the New Testament to describe relationship or fellowship.

Clarence Jordan earned his college degree in agriculture, graduating in the same class as Sen. Herman Talmadge, at the University of Georgia. He met and married his wife, Florence, while a student at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, where he earned his Ph.D. in New Testament Greek.

The Jordans and former American Baptist missionaries Martin and Mabel England, moved to a 440-acre site outside Americus to begin their work. They cultivated a reverence for the soil, calling it “God’s holy earth,” and sought to pay fair wages to workers of all races.

The Koinonia partners lived in relative peace alongside their Sumter County neighbors initially, but as the Civil Rights movement heated up, some local white citizens increasingly perceived Koinonia, with its commitment to racial equality, a threat. In the 1950s and ‘60s, Koinonia became the target of a stifling economic boycott and repeated violence.

When Jordan sought relief from President Eisenhower, the federal government refused to intervene, instead referring the matter to the governor of Georgia who ordered the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to examine Koinonia’s supporters and partners for purported Communist ties. Through it all, Jordan maintained a commitment to pacifism and non-violence.



In the late '60s, Jordan began to turn his energies to speaking and writing. His best-known books are the four-volume Cotton Patch translation of the New Testament. Jordan said he believed it was necessary not only to translate individual words and phrases, but also the context of scripture. For example, he retitled Ephesians "The Letter to the Christians in Birmingham," rendered Jew and Gentile as white man and Negro and referred to crucifixion as "lynching." According to the New Georgia Encyclopedia, Jordan had "John the Baptist conduct[ing] baptisms in the Chattahoochee River, the disciple Peter is given a 'Yankee' accent, and Jesus [was] born in Gainesville" (georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/arts-culture/cotton-patch-gospel)!

Jordan died in 1969 and is buried, as requested, in an unmarked grave on the Koinonia property.

Millard Fuller of Lanett, Ala., along with his wife, Linda, came to Koinonia to live in 1968 after experiencing life crises. Fuller earned a lot of money in construction, but gave it away and looked for a greater cause. He worked for five years on a new project called "partnership housing," then lived and worked for three years building houses in Zaire, now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Fullers established "Habitat for Humanity" in Americus in 1976. Millard Fuller encouraged former President Carter to affiliate with Habitat in 1984. The Carters began to contribute and then volunteered their time for an annual Jimmy Carter Work Project somewhere in the world.

Hamilton Jordan wrote, "It would bring a smile to his face to know that one of his followers — Millard Fuller — took his new vision and transformed it into Habitat for Humanity. Clarence would also find it a great and pleasant irony that his farmer-politician neighbor down the road, Jimmy Carter, was one of its main supporters" (p. 142).

President Bill Clinton awarded Fuller the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996, and former President George H.W. Bush and the Points of Light Foundation honored both Fullers in 2005.

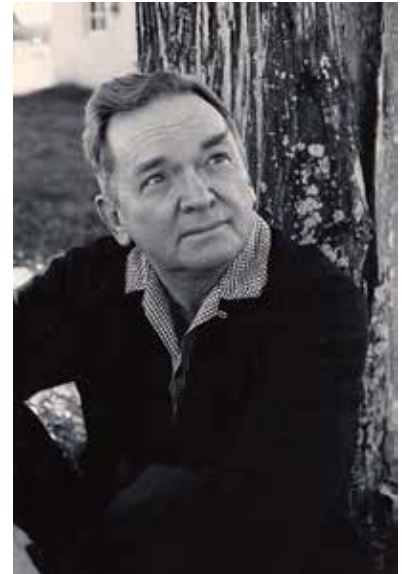
The Fullers left Habitat in 2005 and established the Fuller Center for Housing, also in Americus. The first board meeting of the new organization was held at Koinonia.

Fuller died in 2009 and is buried, like Jordan, at Koinonia Farms. Linda Fuller remarried in 2011. The Fuller Center for Housing established the "Lind-A Hand" program in her honor in 2015, in which all-women teams of volunteers build and repair homes.

Hamilton Jordan died in 2008. A cancer survivor, it is believed his death was because of asbestos exposure during his time in Vietnam. His body was cremated.

Visitors to Koinonia Farms today can buy peanuts, pecans, chocolate, coffee and other treats from the gift shop, as well as copies of the "Cotton Patch" New Testament. All profits support the farm community.

Koinonia is on Georgia Highway 49 South, about 8 miles from the Quality Inn in Americus. The website is koinoniapartners.org. Habitat headquarters in Americus was named the Clarence Jordan Building in 2018.



The Locals Review

By David Quintin, APIC 2776

This new column in the Keynoter will feature rare, scarce, graphically interesting, uncommon and historically significant governor and U.S. Senate campaign items. It will focus primarily on celluloid and lithograph buttons, but will also include ribbons, postcards, brochures and other items used in campaigns.

As a collector for more than 50 years, I have a broad knowledge of this material having published ten books covering sixteen states. Additional states are being added as time permits.

Each column will include five to ten items, as space permits, with a brief description and comment. I hope you enjoy seeing some of these wonderful and sometimes rarely seen campaign items.

UTAH

Reed Smoot, U.S. Senate

In my Top Ten, this dated 1920 2 ¼ inch cello mirror is the only one I have ever seen in 50 years. It is possibly a sample with no manufacturer noted on the curl.



OREGON

George E. Chamberlain, Governor

Early Oregon items are quite rare. This 1 ¼ inch sepia cello is no exception. Again, the only one I have ever seen. Chamberlain, a Democrat, served two terms, 1902 and 1906.



MICHIGAN

John W. Bailey, Governor

This 1 ¾ inch cello with attached ribbon is from his 1918 losing campaign. It is rare and I have only seen one in my collecting years.



GEORGIA

Elizabeth Lariscy, U.S. Senate, and Vince Eagan, Governor

This is a pair of rare 1974 Socialist Workers 1 ¾ inch cellos. I have seen these offered only a couple of times since their issue. Made by Horn Co in Philadelphia.



SOUTH CAROLINA

Cole L. Blease, Governor

Historically, South Carolina has produced fewer campaign items than almost any other state. This rare 1 ¼ inch cello from 1910 is the only one I have ever seen. Blease, a Democrat, also ran and won in 1912. It has a W.F. Miller manufacturer back paper from New York City.



NEW MEXICO

Sam G. Bratton, U.S. Senate

This is a 1924 7/8 inch cello for Democrat Sam Bratton, who also ran in 1930 for re-election and won. It's the only known specimen.



One Down, One To Go

By Rand York, APIC 2878

In 1972, the team of Richard Nixon and Spiro Agnew was unstoppable. They enjoyed an electoral landslide over George McGovern & Sargent Shriver of 521-17, losing only Massachusetts and DC.

But political winds can change direction rapidly, and it was less than a year later that Spiro Agnew pleaded nolo contendere to a charge of tax evasion and resigned the vice presidency in October 1973. Political opponents were re-energized by this surprising turn of events, and chants of "One down! One to go!" began gaining traction across the country. The button shown here was distributed shortly after Agnew's resignation.



The political avalanche continued during the ensuing months with the televised Watergate Committee hearings led by Senators Sam Ervin (D-NC) and Howard Baker (R-TN), and key members of the Nixon administration began resigning, one after another. And with prompting from Sen. Barry Goldwater, Nixon himself resigned on Aug. 9, 1974, less than one year after Agnew did. Television worked its magic, and President Nixon came into America's living rooms to do what no other president had ever done before or since: Resign his office.

Were it not for a single charge of tax evasion, Nixon would have been succeeded by Spiro Agnew, and not Gerald Ford. So many WHAT IFs naturally follow:

Would Ronald Reagan have challenged Agnew in 1976 as he challenged Ford?

And how would it all have played out in the years that followed?

Could Agnew have beaten Jimmy Carter?

Would Reagan ever have become president?

The list goes on. And we will never know.

The One (But Not Only) Lou Grant

By Greg Thompson, APIC 4225

There really was a guy named Lou Grant.

And we are not talking about the famous, fictional TV character, played by Ed Asner, who was the tough, lovable curmudgeon editor of the newsroom in *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* and later in *Lou Grant*.

The actual Lou Grant was a tough, lovable, talented curmudgeon editorial cartoonist for the Oakland Tribune and LA Times Syndicate. He was the model and namesake for the iconic TV character.



Lou Grant, who died in 2001, had a 40-year career as a political cartoonist. His work was seen daily throughout the country and periodically in many national publications.

He had once been a comedy writer for a popular radio show, where he worked with entertainment figures who likely made the connection between the actual Lou Grant and the fictional Lou Grant. But his daughter told me that he never asked for, nor received, any money or official credit for that connection. Once, she said, instead of wearing his own name tag at a convention, his name tag said, "Ed Asner."

I have Lou's original artwork of 20 of his Lyndon Johnson-era cartoons in my collection of original LBJ cartoons. I've been fortunate to become friends with his family and have been entertained by the stories of the original Lou Grant.

Not the one and only Lou Grant. But the only real one.

Continued from page 5.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



I enjoyed the article in the Spring 2025 issue of the Keynoter regarding campaigning by train and "whistle stop politics," by Edward Segal. I wanted to share that as a high school senior in 1984, my history teacher and fellow classmates made the trek to Deshler, Ohio, to see President Reagan on his campaign train stop there. Here is the flyer and an old, grainy photo from the event. Thanks for bringing back this memorable moment in history to me!

-Michael Craun, APIC 12245



The interesting discussion regarding the stopping of "The Buck" on page 29 of the Spring 2025 Keynoter prompted me to offer this additional history:

There is of course only one original President Harry S. Truman "The BUCK STOPS here!" sign, which now resides with the Harry S. Truman Library & Museum. According to them, U.S. Marshall Fred A. Canfil had seen just such a similar sign at the El Reno, OK, Federal Reformatory and asked Warden L. Clark Schilder whether one could be made for the President? Canfil was a "personal friend and right-hand man" of Truman's, having served together in WWI and later, during the Pendergast era, was hired as a tax investigator by him, the then presiding judge and chief executive of Jackson County, MO, (1927-35). The painted glass on walnut base "slogan plate" was duly fabricated and sent to the president on Oct. 2, 1945.

But the joke didn't quite end there as epitomized by this vintage leather miniature wingtip brogue still bank (7 5/8", rather nicely made), which I believe may very well be unique (at least, any longer). This style of shoe is of the sort colloquially known as 'bucks', which had been popular with the Ivy League set -- a member of which Truman was not. HST was, however, a sartorialist who, from 1919 to 1921 when it failed, had been a partner in the Truman & Jacobson Haberdashery of Kansas City, MO. He came to exhibit a special proclivity for "tropical duds" and is said to have, at some point, owned 96 pairs of shoes.

More information can be found at these two sites:
<https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/letter-from-l-clark-schilder-to-president-harry-s-truman-harry-s-truman-presidential-library-and-museum-at-the-national-archives-and-records-administration/8AH7znaLxohQLg?hl=en>
<https://www.gentlemansgazette.com/harry-s-truman-shoe-collection/> (several appropriate comparable illustrations here)

-John Koster, APIC 1720

Researching FDR's Fala

By Barbara Guerriero-Flites, APIC 18029

(Editor's note: This story is not so much about the history of Fala, FDR's dog, but the adventures in researching a book, for all budding authors out there. Ms. Guerriero-Flites' book, The Memoir of a White House Dog; My Life with President Franklin Roosevelt; 1940-1945, is available on Amazon.com.)

By Barbara Guerriero-Flites, APIC 18029

The idea of writing a book never occurred to me until I visited the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, D.C. I saw a little dog sitting at the president's feet and I was intrigued.

When I asked my mom who the dog was, she said "Oh that's Fala! He went everywhere with the president."

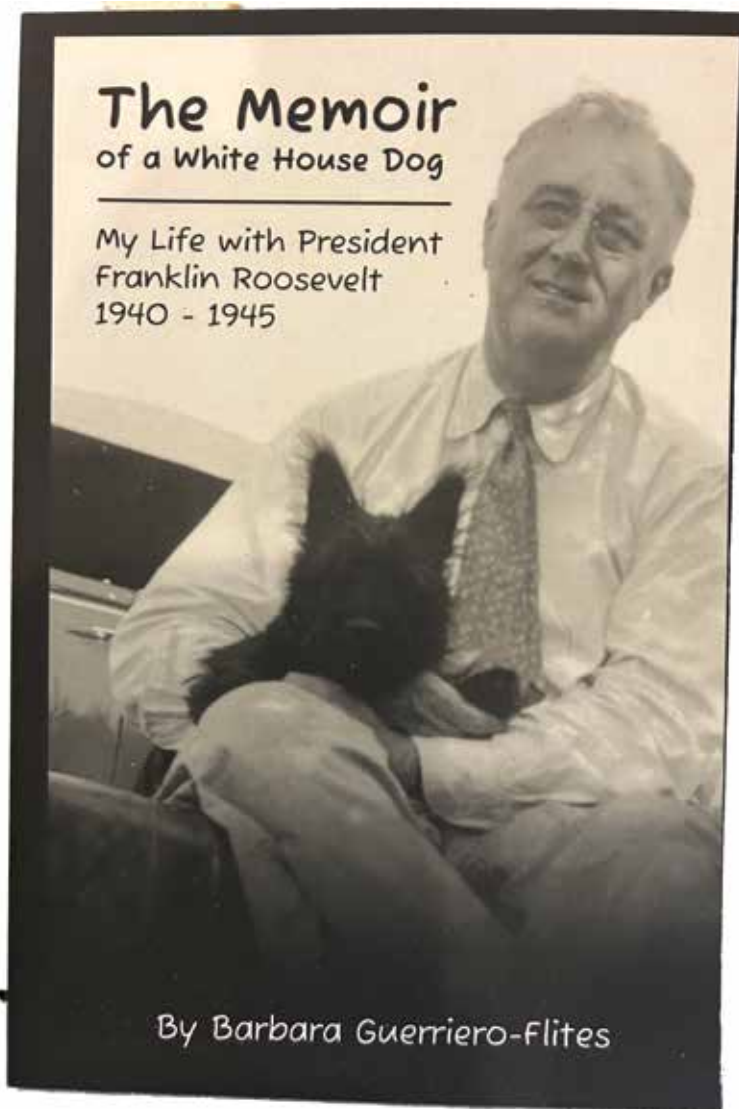
She told me the stories she remembered about Fala. I really believe he was one of the first therapy pets.

I thought about writing a book about World War II through Fala's eyes. I wanted the average person to learn about the war, but telling Fala's story was not going to be easy. The internet was helpful, but it was limited for the type of book I wanted to write. I wrote an outline of the events from 1940-1945 to get the story going. Then I visited the Franklin Roosevelt Presidential Library.

Since I have a background in research, I thought investigating Fala would be easy. Maybe after a few hours of intense research, I could start writing. How wrong I was.

Upon arrival at the library in Hyde Park, N.Y., I was escorted to the third floor library to meet the archivist. The library is one room, and seems quite modest. But that was far from the truth.

Usually, a researcher must email the archivist and request which files to pull from the stacks. Since it was my first time there, the staff was able to assist when I requested any information about Fala.



Fifteen large containers with 25 file folders about Fala were pulled from the stacks and brought to me, full of information from 1940-1945.

Each box contained files which had to stay in order. I was not allowed to take apart any documents with paper clips. Also, no documents could be folded or bent, as one might imagine.

The staff watched me like a hawk. If I did something wrong, it was sternly pointed out to me.

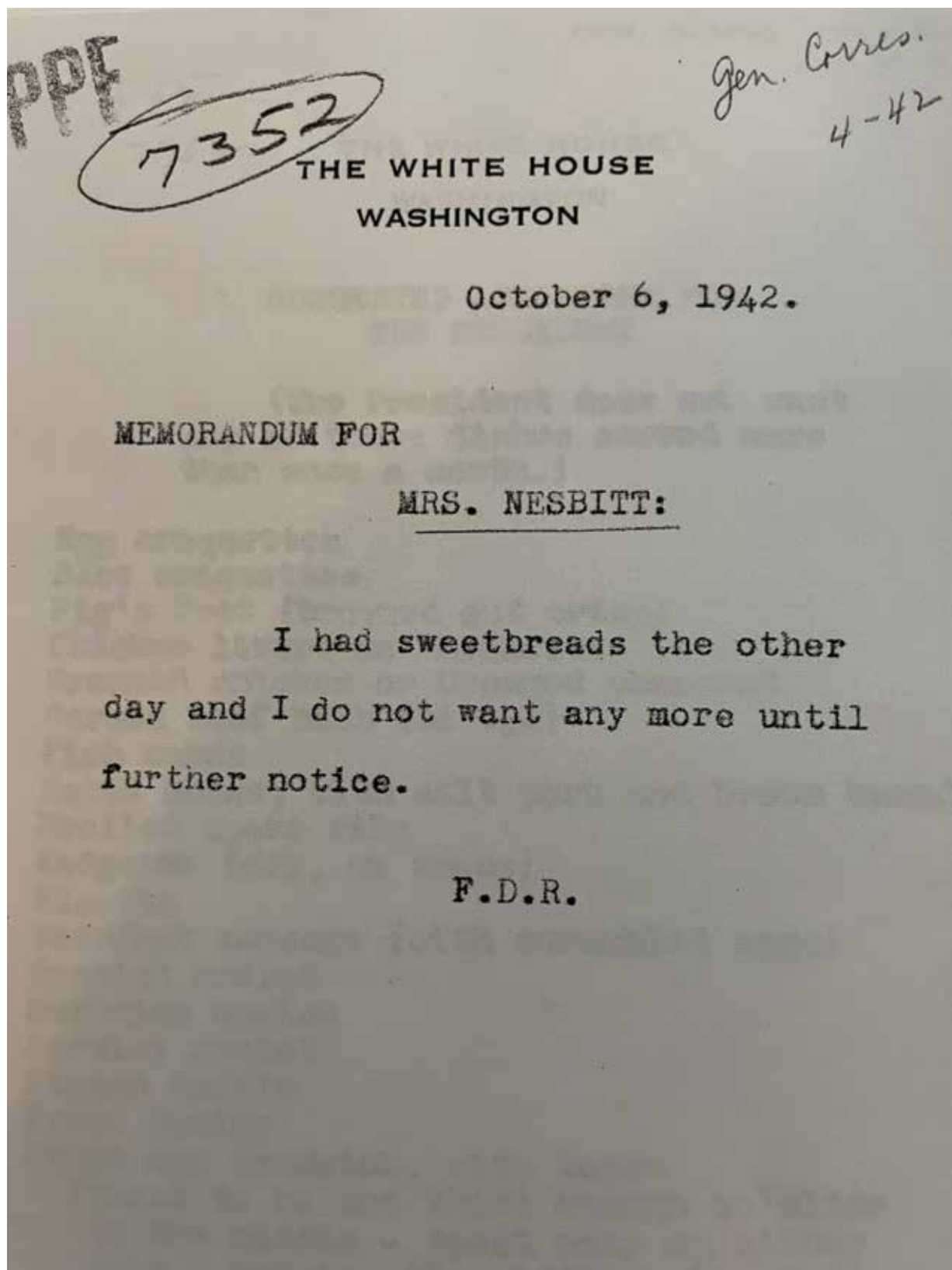
The Fala files contain every piece of correspondence, photos, newspaper articles, and cards sent to Fala. There were many letters from children, which I expected. The children asked for an autograph, shared pictures of their pets, or just talked about their feelings of missing a loved one who was in the war.

But the letters from adults really caught my eye. Some wrote to Fala about their problems and how much they loved the president. They even sent holiday cards and stud requests! Many sent photos of their dogs asking to become friends with Fala. There was a letter asking the president to give Fala a haircut, which was answered by the president's secretary, Missy Lehand. She wrote that the president felt Fala's hair gave him character. There were hate letters after Eleanor Roosevelt told the press that Fala was on his honeymoon. The letters said marriage was a sacred institution and not for animals. Some others were not very nice either, calling The First Lady ugly, while others had racist overtones.

While researching, I branched out from Fala and investigated people who visited or worked in the White House. I found one note from the president to the White House cook, Henrietta Nesbitt. They had a complicated relationship. The president tolerated her as a person but hated her cooking. The note said he did not want sweetbreads until further notice. He also told her she should pluck the feathers from a goose before cooking so the meat would be tender! The very next day the goose was served dry and sweetbreads were served. The president told people he ran for a fourth term so he could fire her, but he didn't have the heart to do it.

When Fala jumped into the car to go to the president's inauguration, he was removed and then ran away. Thanks to his dog tag that said "Fala, The White House," he was returned. Mrs. Nesbitt had no time for him so she put him in a crate. When FDR returned, he was told about Fala's adventure, and also that Mrs. Nesbitt hadn't thawed out enough chicken for lunch. The chicken salad tasted more like celery salad. When the president released Fala from the crate, he whispered that Fala's dog food probably tasted better than what he ate.





Mrs. Nesbitt was hired by the Truman administration, but later fired. She refused to make the home-made biscuits he requested.

Through the Fala files, I learned so much about President Roosevelt and his wonderful sense of humor. I asked the staff to pull any pictures of Fala. They soon delivered two containers. Every picture tells a story. Many of these photos gave me ideas for a story line.

My idea of a couple of hours of research at the library turned into two days. I knew I would have to return. I became friends with a park ranger who sent me pictures of Fala's dog coat and his burial information.

Continuing my research, I traveled to Washington, D.C., to the Library of Congress for more information. There was information about parties, dinners and seating arrangements, but no information about Fala. There was more information about Mrs. Nesbitt, however. I saw her daybook and her entry from the day President Roosevelt died where she simply noted that fact on April 12, 1945, and that she was invited to the internment. I could not believe I was holding this.

I finally finished *The Memoir of a White House Dog; My Life with President Franklin Roosevelt; 1940-1945*. It took 25 years to write, a real labor of love. But, of course, my work as a teacher and life in general got in the way. Fortunately, when the COVID pandemic hit and my school closed, I had finished my research. That allowed me to finish the book in about a month.

My book was written as a thank you to the Roosevelts for saving my family, and our country.

Make APIC Part of Your Estate Planning

As you consider next steps for your collection, please remember that APIC is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt non-profit organization that would greatly value any contribution you'd like to make in your estate planning. A financial bequest or the donation of all or part of your collection would help us greatly as we fund our projects moving forward. You can designate a specific purpose, such as underwriting the APIC Smithsonian Internship or a marketing campaign to help attract new members.

Your bequest or donation also will help us maintain the publication of the Keynoter and the Political Bandwagon without the need to raise membership dues to the rising cost of printing and postage.

If you have questions, please contact APIC President Tony Lee or tonylee08560@gmail.com or call him at 609-310-0817. Thank you!



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Sold for \$37,500



Abraham Lincoln: Back-to-Back Ferrotypes.
Sold for \$4,500



Ulysses S. Grant: Pristine Ferrotypes.
Sold for \$3,500



Roosevelt & Fairbanks: "Pretzel Town" Jugate.
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Theodore Roosevelt: One of the Best TR Cartoon Button Designs.
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