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THE

# KEYNOTER

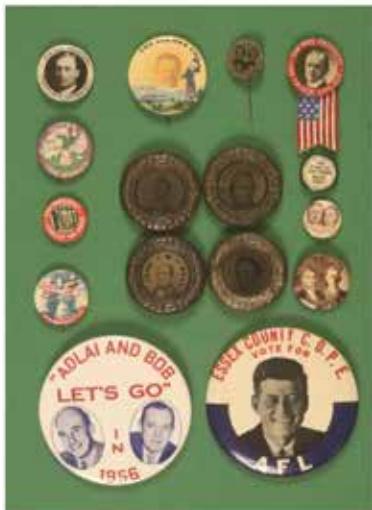
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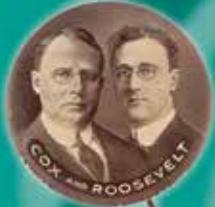


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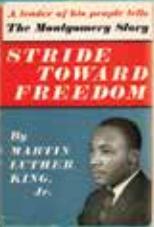
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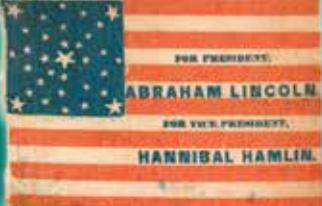
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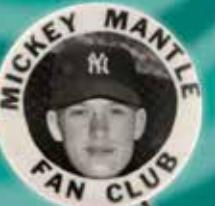
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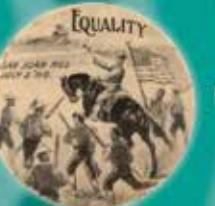
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## FROM THE APIC PRESIDENT

My wife Jane and I recently returned from a 2-week trip to France, where we visited many cities and a range of historical museums both big and small. What they all had in common was a genuine appreciation of artifacts.

At the Liberation of Paris museum, exhibits explained what life was like in the City of Light during the World War II occupation, as well as how ordinary citizens fought back as part of the French resistance. Artifacts were abundant and ranged from posters that were plastered on the streets of Paris to furniture from the apartment of Jean Moulin, a leader of the French underground.



Even more amazing was the incredible MM Park museum outside Strasbourg, a massive complex featuring more than 200 military vehicles, from tanks to airplanes to cannons and more, plus uniforms from every participating army in World War II, guns and armaments and even badges and pinbacks. It makes sense that such a museum would exist in the heart of where more battles took place than anywhere else in Europe, but until I saw it, I never realized how much material has been preserved, in this case by private collectors like ourselves who turned their collecting interest into a fantastic museum.

Many smaller towns featured collections of artifacts as well, from the two-room war museum in Turckheim to the memorials in every small city we visited. As I admired these presentations, I thought of APIC members who are amassing their own World War II collections that are worthy of joining the ones I was visiting. For example, former APIC President Brian Krapf's (APIC 9395) wide-ranging artifacts from the life of Winston Churchill, which he used to illustrate his book on the subject. And both Jim Lowe (APIC 12582) and Hal Ottaway (APIC 35), who have amassed thorough collections documenting the war at home in the 1940s, from pinbacks to posters and more.

There are many other APIC members whose collections could fill a museum, which I'm reminded of whenever I visit their homes. Fortunately, highlights from some of these collections are featured in every issue of the Keynoter, as well as in displays at our national convention every two years. In fact, work has already begun on deciding what should be included in the displays at our 2026 national gathering to be held this summer in Danvers, MA. Drew Hecht and Tom Peeling are again leading that effort, so if you have items from your collection that you'd like to share with those who attend, please reach out to Drew or Tom and let them know. After all, the APIC is all about artifacts, and sharing yours with fellow collectors is a gift for all to enjoy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Lee".

Tony Lee, APIC President

# THE KEYNOTER

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE



One thing I enjoy doing as editor of the Keynoter is trying to get those who were eyewitnesses to history to tell about their adventures. We can read about famous politicians in history books, but hearing from those who witnessed history is special. Their perspective is fascinating.

Within the past few years, we've heard from David Azbell, final press secretary to George Wallace, and son of the newspaper editor who first reported about Rosa Parks and her bus seat event that changed history.

We profiled Robert Warren, son of California governor, VP nominee and Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren. He not only witnessed political history, but he was part of it.

We published a story by Bob Bostock about working with former President Nixon on this displays for the Nixon Library and Museum.

I'm happy we can continue this series in this quarter's edition with an article from Bob Ervin, Grandson of Sen. Sam Ervin of North Carolina who is remembered for his work that brought down Sen. Joseph McCarthy in 1954 and most of all, his leadership of the Senate committee investigating the Watergate scandal.

The best part is that all of these witnesses to history are APIC members who can tie that history to political collectibles.

I hope you enjoy this latest eyewitness to history story.

Tom Peeling, Keynoter Editor

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**FRONT COVER--** LBJ's demise, the war in Vietnam

**NEXT ISSUE--** FDR's NRA

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you Keynoter for the really interesting article about New York City's 20th-century practice of ethnically balancing tickets for what was then its three top elective offices (Mayor, Comptroller and City Council President).

Halfway through this really enjoyable read, I thought "Wow, this author really knows his buttons, and his history. I flipped the page to check out the byline, and discovered the author is inimitable Ken Rudin (APIC 2010)! What a pleasure to access his work on National Public Radio, the Political Junkie podcast and in the Keynoter (and for the opportunity to see some of his gorgeous locals -- like the large button of Mayor Wagner, Abe Beame and Paul Screvane gracing the issue's cover). Thank you Ken, and Keynoter.

**-Eric Orner, APIC 11519**

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# Collecting Chicago Mayors

By Eric Orner, APIC 11519

Collecting political items runs in my family. My stepdad, Daniel Pierce, served 20 years in the Illinois State Legislature and as the longtime Mayor of Highland Park. He began collecting buttons as a kid and had a vast treasure trove from Hoover to Biden when he passed away at age 92 in 2020.

In 1972, when I was 7, my mom, Rhoda Pierce (APIC 4359), attended the Democratic National Convention. She came home with a purse full of buttons as souvenirs. Ill-fated McGovern-Eagletons, Shirley Chisholms, Humphreys, Muskies, even oddball VP items boosting Stanley Arnold and Endicott Peabody.

My parents' collecting sparked my own, which was encouraged by APIC members Mark and Lois Jacobs, whom mom befriended (and whose wonderful shop on the Northside of Chicago we both still miss) as we set about pursuing what became a specialty: Chicago mayoral buttons.

Consideration of the topic makes more sense by starting mid-century, when the most significant body in this particular solar system, Richard J. Daley, perfected machine politics while serving simultaneously as Mayor (1955-1976) and Cook County Democratic Party Chairman, rather than chronologically when buttons first began to appear on hats and lapels in the early 1900s.

My favorite Daleys aren't from mayoral campaigns, however.

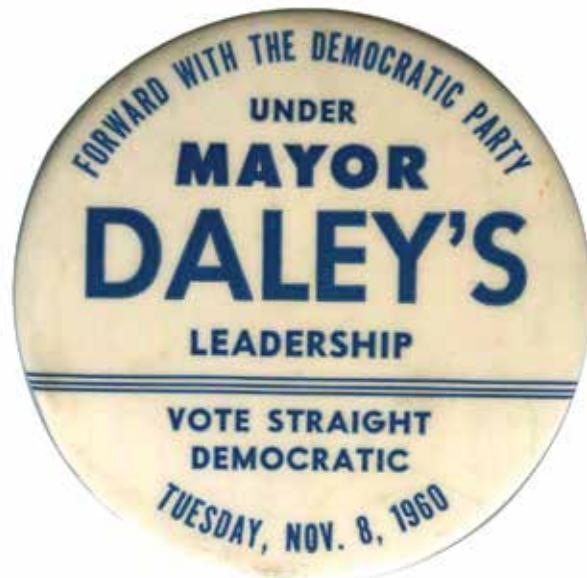
The "Forward with the Democratic Party Under Mayor Daley's Leadership" 3-inch celluloid is from 1960, when Daley's clout and "creative vote counting" delivered Illinois' electoral votes, and the presidency to John F. Kennedy.

A cheerful 4-inch litho "Hello Democrats!" button with ribbon from 1968 welcomed delegates to a Democratic National Convention that has become synonymous with police brutality and political fiasco. Still, the number of TV commentators and liberals such as Sen. Abe Ribicoff who criticized "Gestapo tactics on the streets of Chicago" did little to dent the mayor's popularity with most Chicagoans.

A small celluloid "I'm Proud of Chicago," from his 1971 reelection campaign captures the sentiment of the only voters he cared about.

Chicagoans had known forceful mayoral personalities earlier in the century, however.

I love a 1 ½-inch button with German text (German immigrants comprised nearly 20 percent of Chicago electorate at the time) supporting Republican William Hale "Big Bill" Thompson's 1915 campaign for mayor.





The celluloid "We Mourn Our Loss" button was produced in early 1933, after the death of Thompson's rival and successor, Anton Cermak. President-Elect Franklin D. Roosevelt and Mayor Cermak (considered the founder of the centralized multi-ethnic, Democratic party organization that Daley eventually headed) were sitting in a Miami Beach saloon, no doubt talking shop, when a would-be assassin aimed at FDR, missed and mortally wounded Cermak instead. Newspapers at the time quoted him, sprawled out on the barroom floor, intoning "I'm glad it was me, Frank, instead of you," before shuffling off his mortal coil. Hearing what they figured was an invented quote, ward heelers rolled eyes under their fedoras, knowing their tough, Bohemia-born mayor didn't suffer much from altruistic impulses.

Zooming ahead in time, politics in the period following Richard J. Daley's death in 1976 was dominated, for a time, by an unforgettable Chicago original, pugnacious and charismatic Mayor Jane M. Byrne. A benevolently smiling portrait celluloid from her failed 1983 campaign doesn't capture the authentic "Fighting Jane" that first captivated, then soured Chicagoans on their first female mayor.

Another titan of Windy City mayoral politics was Harold Washington. Originally a loyal functionary of the Democratic machine's south side (and its African-American boss Congressman Bill Dawson), Washington began to break with the machine in the mid-1970s over housing, economic development and the organization's inherent racism.



I treasure the small, yellow and brown "Washington for Congress" pin from 1980, which as a kid, I begged off a precinct campaign.

Washington served in the U.S. House as a thorn in the Democratic machine's side before defeating Byrne and Richard M. Daley to win the mayoralty in 1983. He was reelected in 1987 before dying tragically, at the start of his second term. His humor, his eloquence and his toughness undoubtedly spurred African-American hopes for full participation in the nation's political life, giving rise to Jesse Jackson's groundbreaking campaigns and ultimately, to Barak Obama's successful White House bid.



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## MY THREE FAVORITE FINDS

# It's Still Out There

**By Becky Peeling, Keynoter Associate Editor**

Keep searching and be diligent. That's Brian Krapf's motto for collecting. The former APIC president (2003-2010) says that there is still "good stuff out there." Three of his favorite finds prove his point.

An 1840 William Henry Harrison Georgia ribbon had been on Krapf's "want list" for 20 years.

"It was found stuck inside a cotton merchant's ledger book in Augusta," he recalls, noting that another collector had tipped him off about the find. "People without a network are missing out," he says.

Also, he advises collectors to hunt estate sales, particularly houses that have been closed for years. He once spotted a World War I uniform laid out on a bed at such a sale. "Always search old books on shelves, particularly church and Shakespeare volumes. Don't pass these up because they aren't political," he says.

Another Georgia item, a Roosevelt/Garner Victory Cup ice cream cup was found while Krapf was a law student in Macon, GA. The paper cup was in an antique shop. "It is amazing that it survived," he says. "It was made to be disposed of."

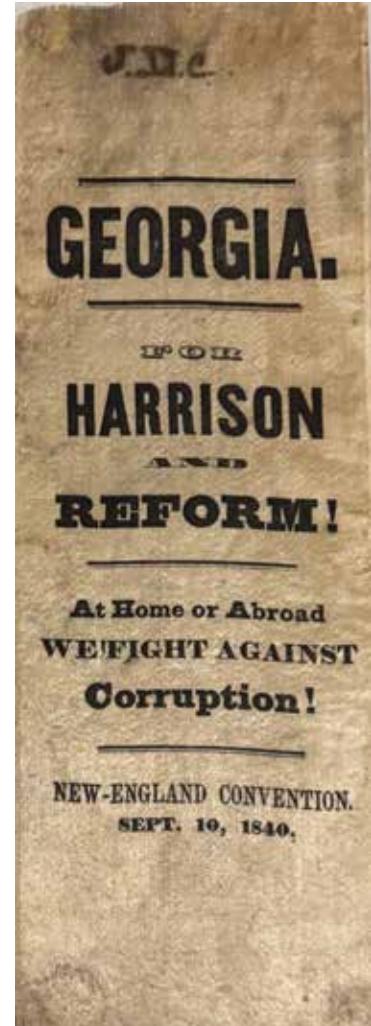
He guesses that the cup commemorated FDR's inauguration, placing the date of the item either 1932 or 1933. There is no known Hoover version, and he has not seen another example outside of Macon. It may have been made specifically for that creamery, he says.

Krapf began collecting at age 10. He grew up in a family of collectors whose vacation trips often included stops at antique stores. He first purchase was a Hoover pin – offered for \$2 but the dealer was willing to sell for \$1. In those early days, he grew his collection through mail order. An ad in a hobby magazine brought him in contact with a dealer who would send a box of pins on approval.

"You sent back a check for the items you kept and the remaining pins," Krapf says. "It was the honor system."

His introduction to APIC was as an undergraduate student at the University of Georgia. He added to his collection through the generosity of antique dealers in this native Savannah, GA, where his family has lived for generations.

"They (antique dealers) were so nice. They would hold items for me until I came home for Christmas vacation," he recalls.



While Georgia political items hold significance for him, his collecting interests also includes FDR and Truman. Their presidencies during World War II dovetail with another person who figures prominently in Krapf's collections – Winston Churchill. In the hobby, Krapf is perhaps best known for his Churchill collection. He is the author of *A Churchill Treasury*, published in July 2024. The book is available from the author and online.

"This era is so rich in history. Up to 10 years ago, you could talk to witnesses of this period," he says, explaining his enthusiasm for collecting items related to World War II.



Prized among his Churchill collection is a poster that hangs in his study. He spotted what appeared to be a palm card in an online auction 20 years ago. No size was listed for the item advertising an event held at Walthamstow Stadium where Churchill appeared in support of fellow Conservative Leslie Charles Curran's run for Parliament. Krapf won the item – though Curran lost that election -- and was astonished when a full-sized poster arrived.

"I knew what the rally was about," Krapf recalls, noting that the poster is rare, the only example he has seen.

While book promotion takes up much of his time these days, Krapf is still on the hunt for items that illustrate history in interesting ways.

# Vietnam: Very Much Lyndon Johnson's War

**By Greg Thompson, APIC 4225**

Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy started it, first getting the U.S. involved in the civil war in Vietnam. They were following the American Cold War foreign policy that saw Vietnam as just another domino in a good-vs.-evil Cold War containment policy against monolithic Communism.

And LBJ's successor, Richard Nixon, extended and expanded the Vietnam War into Laos and Cambodia, increased the bombing, and accounted for another 21,000 American deaths in five years.

But none of that mattered in 1965-68. To the protestors in the streets and on the college campuses, Vietnam was definitely Lyndon Johnson's war.

Ironically, LBJ ran as a peace candidate in his 1964 landslide victory, playing off the fear that many had about Barry Goldwater's perceived willingness to use nuclear weapons against the Communists. Campaign buttons from that 1964 election show a nuclear mushroom cloud and the words, "Go With Goldwater."

LBJ was following the established, unquestioned policy first created in 1950 by President Harry Truman and Secretary of State Dean Acheson in the wake of the political hysteria in the U.S. over the Communist takeover of China. American leaders knew very little about Vietnamese culture and history and simply assumed it was part of the Communist plan to topple another domino.

When it was believed the North Vietnamese had attacked a U.S. ship in the Gulf of Tonkin in late 1964, every member of Congress and all but two Senators voted to approve the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution giving LBJ the power to wage war in Vietnam. So he started with the near unanimous support of Congress.

And in his defense, his military and civilian advisors were, with a few exceptions, almost unanimous in constantly requesting more troops and bombs.

But it was LBJ who ordered the massive troop escalations – despite his vow a few months earlier when he said Oct. 21, 1964 at the University of Akron, "We are not about to send American boys 9 or 10,000 miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves."

But by the end of LBJ's term in office, there were more than 500,000 American soldiers in Vietnam.

That statement and others like it were evidence that he, his administration and his generals consistently lied to the public and the media about the progress of the war. The media complained about "The Credibility Gap." A new button began appearing. It said, "JOHNSON'S MOUTH – The Credibility Gap."

Other buttons appeared showing the nuclear mushroom cloud. But instead of "Go with Goldwater," these buttons said, "All the Way with LBJ."

Johnson didn't want to be seen as weak or be known as the first president to lose a war. He continued to escalate the war even as he sought peace talks. He said later that he felt trapped as his ambitious domestic programs of his Great Society and War on Poverty fell victim to the unwinnable war.



After leaving office, he told historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, "If I left the woman I really loved – 'The Great Society' – in order to get involved with that bitch of a war on the other side of the world, then I would lose everything at home. All my programs. All my hopes to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. But if I let the Communists take over South Vietnam, then I would be seen as an appeaser."

In his colorful Texas Hill Country vernacular, he told aide Bill Moyers, "I feel like a hitchhiker caught in a hailstorm on a Texas highway, 'I can't run, I can't hide and I can't make it stop.'"

Volumes have been written about LBJ and Vietnam, and the purpose here is not to try to rehash that debate, but to provide some historical context about the array of creative, colorful, pointed and provocative buttons, posters and handbills protesting Lyndon Johnson and the Vietnam War.

Demonstrations against American involvement in the Vietnam War began in 1965. Through the next several years, these demonstrations grew into a social movement that was part of the broader counterculture of the 1960s.

Protestors began wearing a variety of anti-war and anti-LBJ buttons on their denim jackets and military olive-green coats. Some buttons were as simple as, "End Johnson's War." Another one, which is rare today, said: "I Refuse To Support Johnson's War in Vietnam." One button showed a cartoon drawing of LBJ as Superman and said, "SuperSam, Get Out of Vietnam."

Many buttons protested the military draft. One, out of Venice, CA, said, "Draft L.B.J." Another series in a variety of colors said, "DRAFT JOHNSON." One button even suggested that movie star George Hamilton, a onetime rumored boyfriend of LBJ's daughter, also be drafted.



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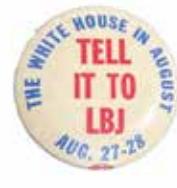
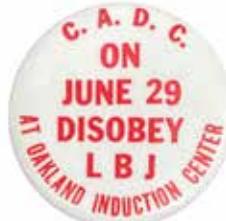
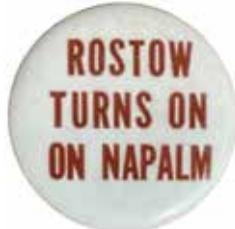
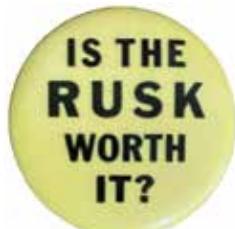
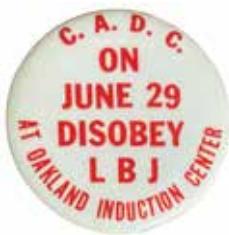
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Three of the rarest anti-LBJ Vietnam buttons were produced for specific events:

- One was produced in California for the Civil Action Day Committee (CADC), which organized a sit-in on June 29, 1967 at the Oakland Induction Center. It said: "On June 29 Disobey LBJ."
- A second was used on Aug. 27-28, 1966, when the Du Bois Club hosted a national conference in Washington D.C. that included a protest against the Vietnam War at the White House gates. That scarce button for the White House event proclaimed, "Tell It to LBJ."
- The third was used on June 23, 1967, at an anti-Vietnam War protest march by 10,000 in the Century City neighborhood of Los Angeles. That march was halted when Los Angeles police officers began assaulting the protesters. The button proclaimed, "Stop LBJ."

As the war raged, the buttons grew meaner and more personal toward LBJ. He was called a mass murderer who would "Kill for Peace." One unusual button touted a 1968 presidential ticket of LBJ and Richard Speck, the notorious Chicago mass murderer. Another button suggested LBJ should run for coroner. Other anti-war buttons attacked his chief aides, such as Robert McNamara, Dean Rusk and Walt Rostow.

One very rare button said, "SEND LBJ TO VIETNAM." Others suggested that LBJ and Rusk should be dropped on North Vietnam instead of bombs. One button, appearing in three different colors, featured a cartoon drawing of LBJ's face and said, "I'd Rather Save My Ass Than LBJ's Face." It was often accompanied by another button saying, "Save Lives, Not Faces."





A very rare button said, "LBJ. Have Gun Will Travel" after the popular gunfighter TV show of the 60s, while another said, "LETHAL BIRD JOHNSON Beware." There was a button that supported LBJ's domestic agenda but not Vietnam. Therefore, it said, "Impeach ½ of LBJ."

Sowing more seeds of the Credibility Gap, LBJ said in 1964, "We want no wider war." When he later sent hundreds of thousands of troops to Vietnam, anti LBJ buttons appeared with Adolf Hitler's face and the quote, "We Seek No Wider War." Another button proclaimed, "Hitler is Alive in the White House."

Posters also began cropping up at rallies and protests, but not just in the United States. A rare anti-war, anti-LBJ poster was created in the Netherlands, proclaiming, "Johnson Oorlogs-Misdadiger" or "Johnson War Criminal."

An elaborate and creative satire of a full color movie poster also appeared in 1968, showing LBJ relaxing with a cocktail on a lawn chair surrounded by bloody scenes from the war. It announced the blockbuster movie: "Vietnam." It was "Filmed in Blood and Guts." Price of Admission: Your Son ... and Taxes."

Homemade signs and placards were used frequently at rallies. A particularly colorful one, handmade in the psychedelic style of the time and likely unique, was used at an anti-war rally at Long Beach State and featured LBJ's name, a swastika and the word "Lies" repeated multiple times.

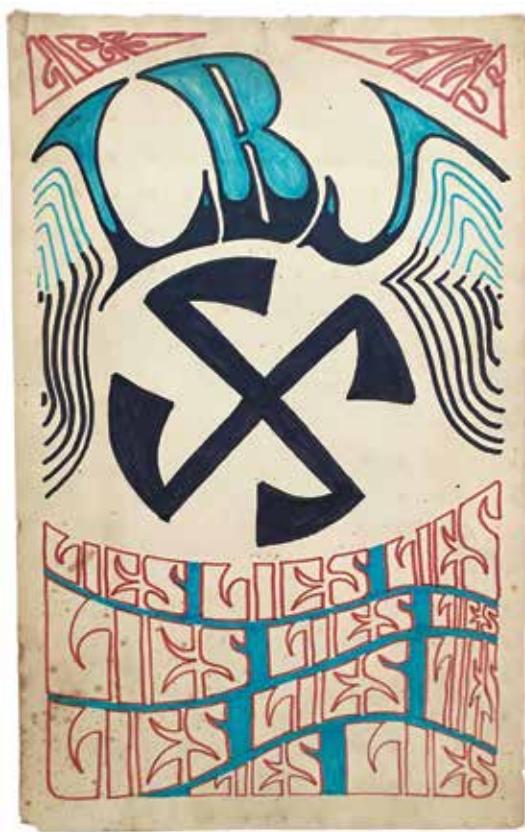
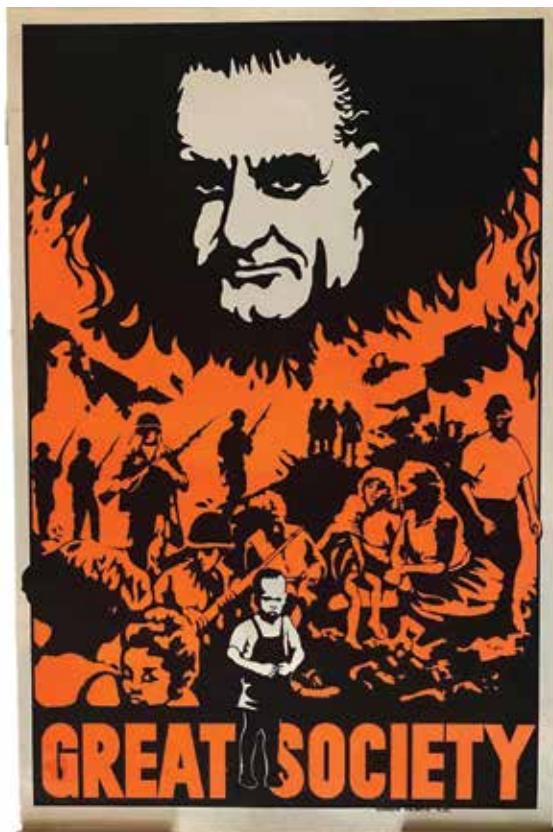
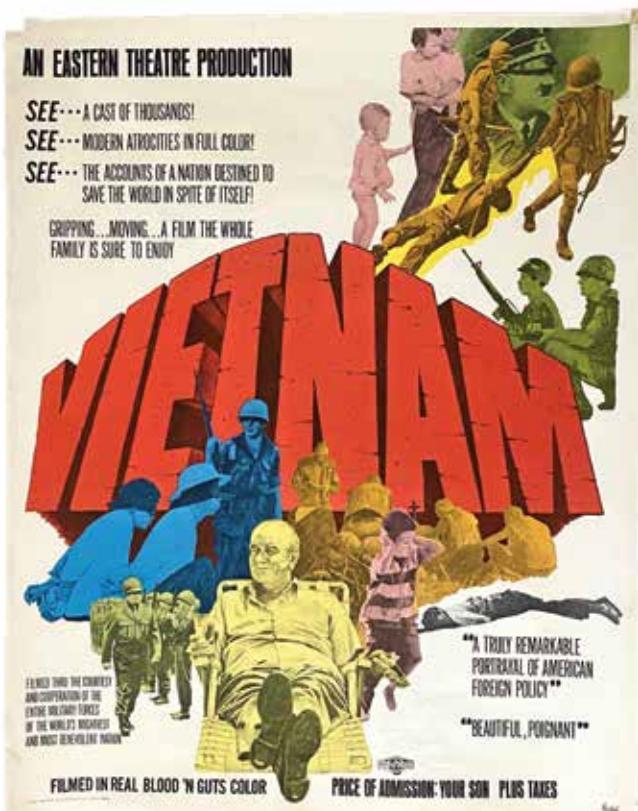
Some buttons referred to the wearer as a "Nervous Nellie" after LBJ dismissed opponents of the war as Nervous Nellies in a bombastic 1966 speech.

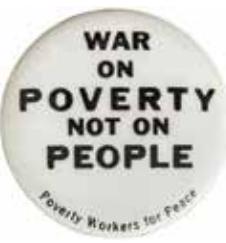
Buttons supporting LBJ in Vietnam are very few and rare, compared to the hundreds of different anti-Vietnam War buttons that came out.

The anti-war protests got larger and more violent after LBJ left office, leading to the Kent State killings in 1971. Many of the anti-war buttons and posters spilled over from the Johnson years into the Nixon administration as Nixon continued the war. One button saying, "Impeach The Mad Bomber" was likely used for both LBJ and Nixon. And the satirical Vietnam movie poster was re-issued in black-and-white with Nixon included.

The Vietnam War killed 58,000 American soldiers, stained LBJ's legacy and inflicted numerous lasting scars on the United States. Maybe prophetic, but another anti-LBJ button of the period said simply: "LBJ Will Go Down in History."







# PROTEST HYPOCRISY



• *picket  
johnson* •

This picture is upside-down on purpose. What this country needs is less presidential vanity and more respect for international law and self-determination. Does a Texas rancher really understand the needs of Asian peasants?

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## EYEWITNESS TO HISTORY

# Recalling My Grandfather, Senator Sam

By Robert Ervin, APIC 8207

Samuel James Ervin, Jr. -- "Senator Sam" -- was appointed to the U.S. Senate in June 1954 to fill the vacancy created by the death of former Gov. and Sen. Clyde R. Hoey. Senator Sam served in the Senate until December 1974 when he retired after deciding not to seek re-election. He was best known for serving as chairman of the Senate Watergate Committee and as a member of the committee that conducted investigations leading to the censure of Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

When I was born, my grandfather was in his first full elected term in the Senate, and he remained in the Senate until I was in the ninth grade. During most of my childhood, my grandfather and his wife, who was usually referred to as "Miss Margaret," spent most of their time in Washington.

My grandfather was born in 1896, and he was one of ten children. His father was a lawyer, who was admitted to the bar after reading law. My great-grandparents lived on the outskirts of Morganton, NC, and grew vegetables and raised cows and other farm animals. Among the duties of the children in the household was caring for the animals and milking the family cow. My grandfather was known among his siblings for being too stupid to learn to milk the cow.

As a child, Senator Sam attended the public schools in Morganton. One of the daily activities involved reciting Bible verses, which each student memorized in preparation for school. My grandfather one day recited as his selected verse Psalms 119:99, which in the King James version begins, "I have more understanding than all of my teachers..." Evidently, his classmates were more amused than his teacher. Senator Sam's ability to quote widely from the Bible, Shakespeare and other literature was developed by his early schooling.

My grandfather served in World War I in Europe and saw action in the trenches. He received the Distinguished Service Cross, a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts. He was wounded twice and exposed to gas. After the war, he served in the National Guard. I never heard him discuss his war experiences. That part of his life always seemed to be a closed chapter.

When I visited my grandparents at their home in Morganton, I usually spent time with them in a room that was Senator Sam's library. The room featured floor to ceiling bookshelves on all four walls, and his desk. During most visits, I would sit on a sofa talking to my grandmother while my grandfather sat at his desk working on speeches, legal filings or research. Throughout the visit, my grandfather would jump into the conversation to discuss items of interest to him and then jump out of the discussion only to rejoin later. He had what folks describe as a "one-track mind" and was always deeply focused on his latest project.



This one-track mind had other consequences. Riding in a car with him was an adventure since he was always doing more thinking than driving. His Senate staffers always insisted on driving for their own safety. In Washington, he lived in the Methodist Building which was located across the street from the Supreme Court building. On one occasion, when my grandfather was behind the wheel of his car, the vehicle surged across the street, over the curb and crashed into the Supreme Court building. His Senate colleagues greatly enjoyed the opportunity to comment on his latest "attack" on the Court.

My grandfather was a staunch hawk in his outlook toward the Vietnam War. Although he aggressively defended the rights of students and other antiwar protesters, my grandfather truly disliked the fashion of young men wearing long hair. When my cousins and I started wearing our hair longer in conformity with the current style, my grandfather started giving us money to go get haircuts. Since haircuts were much more expensive in Washington, his practice incentivized us to grow out our hair until he came back to town.

My grandfather loved literature, and poetry in particular. He frequently gave me books containing collections of poetry. These books contained handwritten notes on the inside of the hard bound cover directing my attention to certain poems that he thought that I should read and memorize. These suggested poems almost always had a moral or instructional component. Some examples of those poems include *If* by Rudyard Kipling, *Myself* by Edward Guest and *Opportunity* by Edward Roland Sill.

When my grandparents were in town for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, we typically celebrated the holiday with family gatherings or dinners at my grandparents' home. The "grown-ups" normally ate in the dining room, and my grandfather would frequently shift the focus of the conversation to some issue currently in public dispute. A recurrent subject at these dinners was the rights of women or the Equal Rights Amendment. Since my aunts and my mother had strong opinions on that subject and since my grandfather was a prominent opponent of the amendment, the debate could get heated. My grandfather would often also play the role of "devil's advocate" to promote or spark discussion if necessary.



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After my grandfather announced his decision to retire, he commented to some people that he was going fishing when he had more time. As a result, political cartoons were drawn with signs at his office door reading, "Gone Fishing." He also received a number of fishing rods as gifts. I never recall him fishing or playing golf. He wasn't much for exercise as an activity. To the extent that he had a hobby it was genealogy. He did considerable research into family history matters and engaged in extensive correspondence to research this subject during his retirement.

In the spring of 1982, I visited my grandfather during my senior year of college, and he inquired about the status of my applications for admission to law school. I told him that I had been admitted to the University of North Carolina Law School and was still waiting to hear from his alma mater, Harvard. A few weeks later, I was admitted without further activity on my part. During law school, I had a chance encounter with an employee of the admissions office. Evidently, after my visit, my grandfather called the admissions office to inquire about the status of my application. The admissions office employees had difficulty responding to his inquiry because my application had been lost and no one could locate it. Since no one wanted to respond to him by replying "what application," the staff began searching and eventually located the file. So, his efforts probably had more to do with my law school admission than mine did.

In the summer of 1973, my mother took me and my sisters to visit Washington and observe hearings of the Senate Watergate Committee. We had the opportunity to watch the hearings and observe the intense public scrutiny of those proceedings. This led to an event that became the last story in my grandfather's book *Humor of a Country Lawyer*. The story as recited in the book is:

Our grandson, Bobby Ervin, who was then about thirteen years of age, visited my wife and me in Washington during the Watergate investigation. We were walking to dinner at Mike Palm's Restaurant on Pennsylvania Avenue trailed by some reporters and news photographers. A reporter asked Bobby, "how does it feel to be going to dinner with the chairman of the Watergate Committee?"

Bobby replied, "It's like going to the circus with the organ grinder."

Omitted from the book was my grandfather's response, "And you're the monkey."



# Sam Ervin Campaign Items

My grandfather's Senate campaign in 1968 produced most of the political items that I have come across. There is a 1 ¼-inch blue and white celluloid button, a blue and white bumper sticker and a red, white and blue round sticker from that campaign. Since his 1968 campaign occurred prior to the advent of television ad campaigns, my grandfather's campaign issued rebate checks to contributors after the 1968 election ended. There is an Ervin for President button that I believe was circulated among the North Carolina delegates to the Democratic National Convention in either 1968 or 1972. I have a blue and white celluloid button that simply says "Ervin" which is probably a salesman's sample since I am only aware of two examples.

Senator Sam also served in the North Carolina General Assembly in the 1920s and briefly in Congress in 1946. He was appointed to Congress to succeed his brother Joseph Wilson Ervin, who committed suicide while serving in the House of Representatives. Joe Ervin suffered from osteomyelitis, a painful inflammation of the bone marrow, and family legend points to this as the likely cause of his decision to end his life. A brochure from that campaign promoting Joe Ervin's election to Congress exists.

Interestingly, I discovered in my grandfather's home after his death, posters from his campaign to be elected District Attorney in 1926. This campaign was the only unsuccessful one in his political career. There is also a flyer entitled "Interesting Facts Concerning the Nomination and Election of L. S. Spurling As Solicitor Of the Sixteenth Judicial District." The brochure strongly implies that the ballot boxes in three precincts were stuffed in a second primary leading to my grandfather's defeat. The legalistic style of the prose and family legend both point to my great-grandfather as the likely author of this brochure.

-- Bob Ervin



## APIC MEMBER PROFILE:

# Jim Kirk, APIC 1375

**By Adam Gottlieb, APIC 4864**

Veteran collector Jim Kirk is on a mission. Not merely satisfied with collecting political Americana, of which he has an abundance, Kirk, 82, is hoping to build upon his collection of America's first five presidents.

While many APIC members got their collecting start at a young age, Kirk was a 22-year-old high school teacher when he was "bitten by the bug." And ironically, the member who turned him onto the hobby in 1968 was one of his 10th grade students at Saugerties High School in upstate New York. That social studies student – Tom Keefe, APIC 1867 – has maintained a nearly 60-year friendship with Kirk.

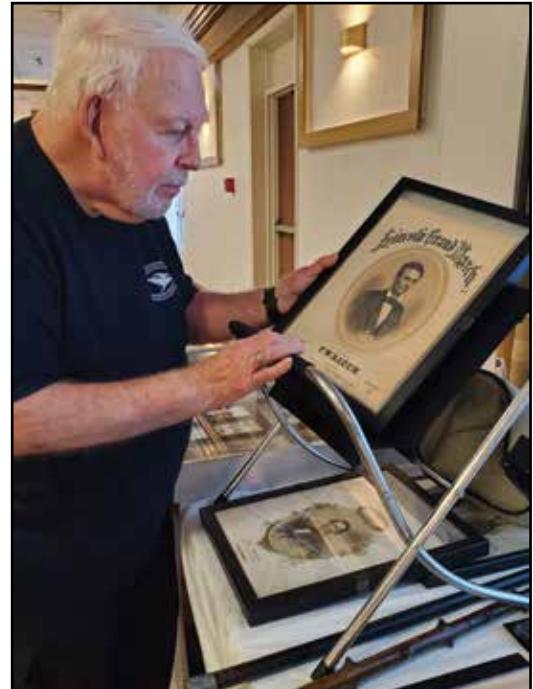
When Keefe wanted to open a local Eugene McCarthy for President Headquarters, it was Kirk and his wife, Joan, who helped rent the building. Kirk remembers an amusing moment from the campaign when Joan walked a McCarthy banner-clad donkey down the main street in Saugerties while he and Keefe handed out campaign literature for the Minnesota senator.

Later that year, Kirk discovered the APIC and went to sell buttons, accompanied by Keefe, at a show in Meriden, CT.

"I was stunned and amazed with all the incredible political buttons for sale," he said. It was at this show that he met noted political collectors J. Doyle Dewitt and Dr. Ed Sullivan.

The following year his table was next to Sullivan's table in an overflow ballroom. "We didn't get much foot traffic, so we went to the bar for a beer and that's how Ed and I became friends 24 years," Kirk said. When Sullivan and his wife Fran moved to Cape Cod (where Kirk maintains a second residence), the Kirks and the Sullivans celebrated birthdays, enjoyed countless sessions of Irish music, and spent many hours talking about political memorabilia.

In 1970, Kirk found himself at his first APIC National Convention in Boston. Fast forward to the 2010 APIC National in Buffalo and Kirk co-chaired the Member Exhibits with Shelby O'Neil. One memorable exhibit he worked on was a timeline display of every New Yorker who ran for president and received at least ONE vote. From the colonial days (George Clinton) to turn of the century (Teddy Roosevelt) to the Depression and World War Two (Franklin Roosevelt), the exhibit was a popular display. Kirk has displayed his personal collection at APIC National Conventions and regional shows, libraries, and even store fronts in election years.



He attended Springfield (MA) College, East Texas State University, and Colgate Rochester Divinity School where he received his master's degree and his doctoral degree in Spiritual Theology. In addition to his academic credentials, many collectors might be surprised to learn Kirk is an ordained United Methodist pastor.

Kirk has spent a lifetime hunting, collecting, and curating unique pieces of political Americana. From Washington to post-war America, Kirk has an amazing collection of rare pieces. He specializes in both Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, Huey Long, Upton Sinclair, William Sulzer, (Texas governors) Jim and Miriam Ferguson, left-wing candidates and social causes from 1890s-1948. He also enjoys collecting sheet music and has a robust collection of "salesmen safety" buttons and ephemera that depict both presidential candidates. The idea behind a salesman button is that customers wouldn't turn down the salesman because of his partisanship for Democrat or Republican candidate. His earliest piece is an item from the election of 1844 showing James K. Polk and Henry Clay.

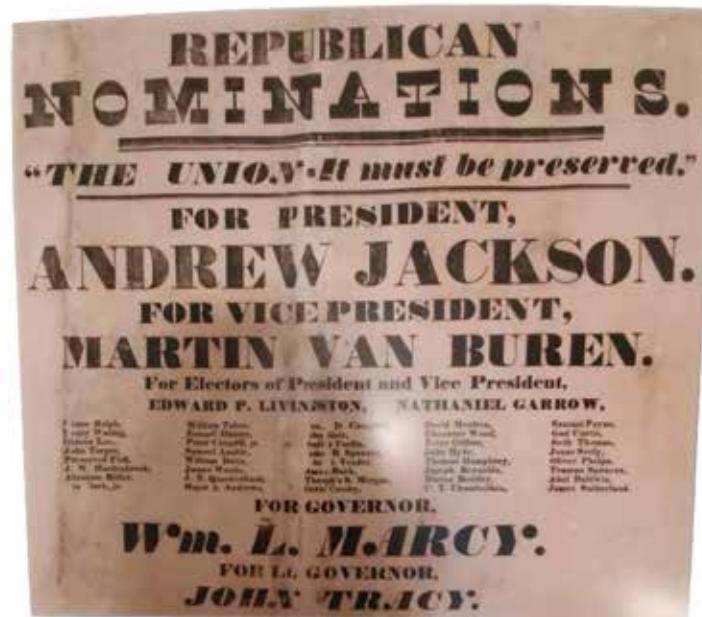
What was his first button found "in the wild?" Kirk found a Parker-Davis jugate pinned to a stained Tammany ribbon which was nailed to the wall in an antique store. "I was excited to pay fifty cents for it and it's still in my collection," he said.

Early in his collecting journey, Kirk was told by APIC dealer Ed Veleber "don't buy new stuff."

Kirk offers his own advice to new collectors "collect what you love. If it makes you happy, find it, enjoy it and share your passion with others. The APIC's greatest strength is the bonds of friendship it creates. Being a caring human being has allowed me to develop real friendships which is much more important than stuff," Kirk added.

That doesn't mean Kirk isn't passionate about collecting. One of his prized political possessions is an intriguing 1832 broadside poster (approximately 36-inches square) promoting Jackson, Van Buren, Marcy (Governor), Tracy (Lt. Governor). "I found this 35 years ago in a backwater antique store in the Catskills. The problem about this piece was it had been glued as a lining into a large, old leather trunk. I really loved it, but it needed to be carefully removed. I purchased the poster, on the condition the paper conservator recommended by the dealer could get it out safely. The restoration cost more than the poster, but the conservator did a great job and now it hangs in my collection. And I still have the trunk," Kirk said.

Another unusual treasure is an unlisted 1-inch Wilson button with the phrase, The Unredeemed Greeks Society Ipswich 1919.



"I bought it at a country antique shop many years from an antiques dealer who said he acquired it as part of a large collection from a student who needed money to pay for school at Cornell," Kirk said.

Lastly, Kirk shared an unusual Charles Evans Hughes oval celluloid stating, Beware the Yellow Peril, Vote for Hughes.

"I traded a small Lincoln-Hamlin tintype to an older New York state collector for this rare piece," he said.

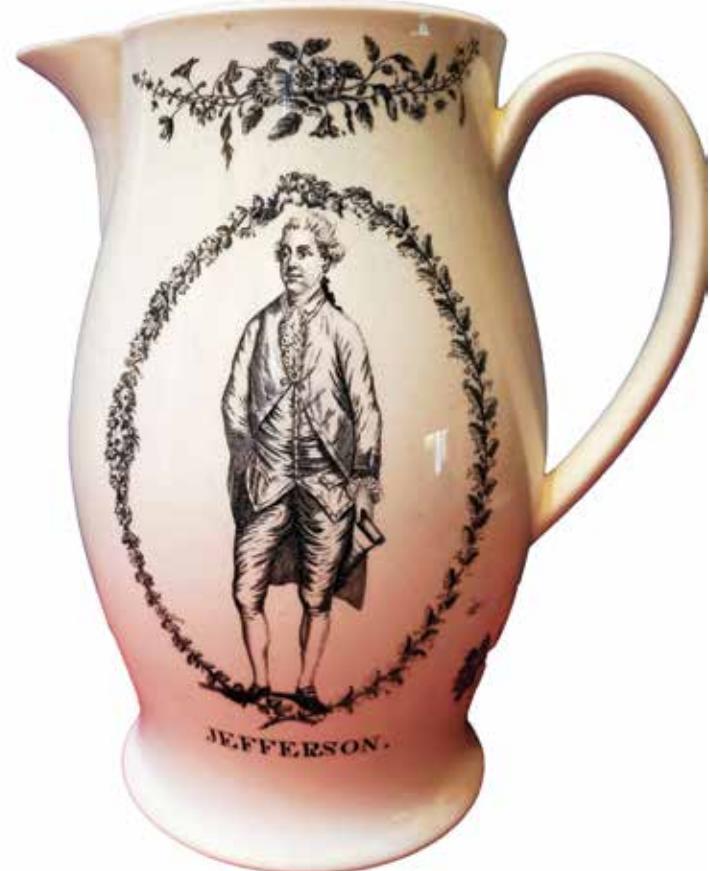
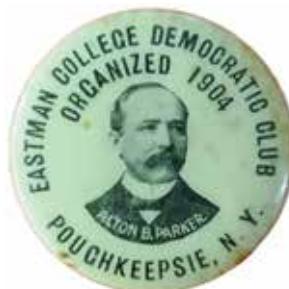
His most recent project to be exhibited at the 2026 National Convention focuses on the first five presidents – Washington through Monroe. He is fascinated by curating the history he collects.

"It's fun to learn and share... (the early presidents) designed the structure of our government, compromised, wrote it down, and then were selected (not elected) to donate their time to make it work," Kirk said.

One spectacular Washington item in his collection depicts George Washington paired jugate-style with John Adams.

"It is a stone-cut lithograph I bought from Peter Scanlan. It was meant to boost Adams' prospects as Washington's successor," Kirk added. He has one or two pieces of sheet music for all five presidents, but is seeking an 1826 Jefferson lottery ticket to round out the collection.

With the APIC National returning to Boston this summer after a 56-year hiatus, expect to see Jim Kirk sharing collecting stories at the exhibits area and connecting with old (and new) collector friends over drinks in the hotel.



## The Truth Be Told

# Righting McKinley, Smith wrongs

By David Holcomb, APIC 5993

I thought I would highlight a couple of buttons that are misattributed from time to time.

The first one is a McKinley button, which is often thought to be a President William McKinley piece. However, it is a William B. McKinley campaign button from 1920. That year William B. was running for U.S. Senate in Illinois. The September Republican primary against Frank L. Smith was a tight race. Early returns made it appear that Smith had won. So much so that McKinley even sent Smith a congratulatory telegram the next day. But when the smoke finally settled, McKinley had won the primary and eventually went on to win the Senate race in November. Six years later in the Republican primary, Smith defeated the sitting Sen. McKinley in his bid for re-election. McKinley passed away in December before his term expired. The Senate seat sat vacant for two years because the Senate would not seat Smith based on alleged fraud and corruption. It was not filled until Smith finally resigned in February of 1928.

The second button is the 1925 Smith Minutemen button that shows up attributed to Al Smith. I have even seen it attributed to Al Smith Jr., the son of the governor, who was the only family member running for office in 1925. Junior was running for the Assembly in NY. It is not for either of the Al Smiths, but rather for John W. Smith who was running for re-election as Detroit's mayor. During the last month of the campaign, the Smith Minutemen were formed from all military veterans. They were formed "for the re-election of John W. Smith for mayor of the city of Detroit because we believe he fulfills Theodore Roosevelt's definition of a real American. He served his country honorably in time of war. We know of no further qualification necessary to make him a better American." The group started with about 150 veterans from the American Legion, United Spanish War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled Veterans of the World War and other service men's organizations. The club's official slogan was "Tolerance, Justice and Honesty."

The organization grew to more than 2,000 by the end of October. They successfully sent out 25,000 letters to veterans in Detroit and held a large rally at the Detroit Armory just prior to the election. The Detroit Free Press reported on the rally that "Smith brought the crowd (reported at about 6,000) that packed the Light Guard Armory to its feet last night, and for many seconds they stood and cheered him."

The election was marked with religious bigotry against Smith, a Catholic. The KKK took an active part and Smith's opponent, Charles E. Bowles, was endorsed by the Klan. Henry Ford came out and endorsed Smith and decried the religious bigotry of the Klan. Smith, in addressing the crowd at the armory, said "There is no danger of a hood being placed on the city hall next Tuesday, for the people of Detroit are going to show this entire nation that the spirit of their forefathers is not dead in Detroit; that the gifted men who wrote the Constitution did not work in vain, and that freedom of speech and freedom of religious thought still are believed in by the people of this city." On election day the people of Detroit elected Smith.



**MINUTEMEN TO BACK SMITH**

The "spirit of '76" will be the watchword of the Smith Minute-men Club, organized at a meeting at 496 Grand River avenue last night to further the candidacy of Mayor John W. Smith for reelection.

**Bares Klan Scheming To Rule City Council**

New York World Investigator Reveals Methods Used in Detroit Campaign.

New York, Oct. 30.—This is the third of a series of articles by a staff correspondent of the New York World on the plot played by a Ku Klux Klan in Detroit's election campaign. The Klan had to obtain control of that city's government as the opening wedge in a campaign for nation-wide奴役.

**FORD INDORSES MAYOR SMITH; SCORES BIGOTRY**

Likes His Appointments; Deplores Religious Strife and Activity By Secret Organizations.

**Smith's Lines Holding Firm For Victory**

Smith triumphs in Detroit election.

Defeats Klan-Endorsed Opponent By a Clear Majority Of About 30,000

**SMITH TRIUMPHS IN DETROIT ELECTION**

Saves Trains

# WILLIAM B. MCKINLEY

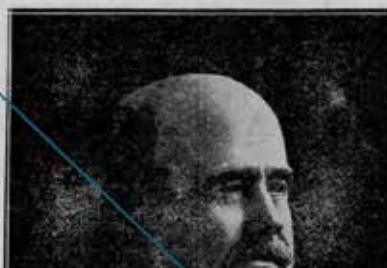
## For United States Senator-

### WHAT MCKINLEY Stands For

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"Back to the Constitution"

### Congressman McKinley

Will strive to get the Country "Up in Business" and "Back to Normal"  
Has served in House of Representatives **FOURTEEN YEARS SEVEN TERMS**  
Successful Business Man—Experienced Legislator



### WHAT MCKINLEY

#### Stands For

"America First"—"Justice to All"

### William B. McKinley

was born September 5, 1843, at Petersburg, Menard Co., Illinois, where his father, Rev. George McKinley, was pastor of a small Presbyterian church.

Reverend McKinley being called to the Presbyterian charge at Champaign, Illinois, in 1858, removed with his family to that city, where William B. McKinley grew to manhood, entered upon his business career, and has ever since resided.

He was educated in the Champaign public schools and the University of Illinois.

He has been a life-long Republican.

He was first elected to Congress in 1904, and is now serving his seventh term.

***In the Arena Again:***

# TR Library Prepares to Open

***By Matt Briney, TR Presidential Library Chief Communications Officer***

Collectors, historians, and lovers of presidential lore have something remarkable to look forward to this year. On July 4, 2026 — America's 250th birthday — the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library will open its doors in Medora, ND.

Situated just outside Theodore Roosevelt National Park, it will be the first presidential library integrated into a national park, uniquely placing a president's story in the very landscape that helped define his legacy.

Set on a bluff above the Little Missouri River and within view of Roosevelt's cherished Elkhorn Ranch, the Library offers an unparalleled opportunity to experience the man and his mission in context.

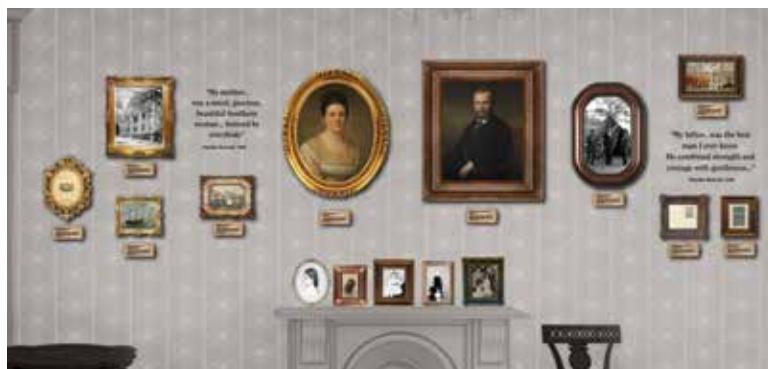
Roosevelt once said, "I never would have been president if it had not been for my experience in North Dakota." Now, that Dakota story will come alive for all Americans.

The library's mission is to inspire civic courage, environmental stewardship, and leadership through immersive storytelling and dynamic engagement. Visitors will journey through "Narrative Galleries" tracing TR's life from his sickly childhood to Rough Rider, from White House reformer to globe-trotting adventurer.

For members of the American Political Items Collectors, the museum's spotlight on political memorabilia is especially noteworthy. The exhibit plan includes campaign buttons, posters, political cartoons, and rare ephemera from Roosevelt's many runs for office. These artifacts are more than relics —they're windows into one of the most dynamic and brand-conscious presidencies in American history.

Also central to the experience is Trailblazer, a technology platform that combines wearable devices with a mobile app to create a personalized visit. Guests earn digital badges and explore themes of leadership, conservation, and citizenship in an interactive way that bridges history and the present.





Outside the walls, the Native Plant Project is restoring the library's surrounding grasslands to native prairie, honoring Roosevelt's pioneering conservation legacy in living form.

The July 4, 2026, opening of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library will not just celebrate America's 250th birthday, it will set a new benchmark for presidential commemoration.

As TR himself said, "It is not the critic who counts... the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena." Come July 4, Americans will be invited to step into that arena once more — at a place where history challenges us to act.



# The Scarcity of 1944 Buttons

*Keynoter Editor's note: This article about the 1944 campaign buttons is reprinted with permission from the August 1971 edition of Political Americana newspaper.*

"Since the 1940 campaign, the forty leading political campaign button manufacturers had been nervously fingering their lapels, wondering wishfully if history would repeat itself. That year they were enriched unexpectedly when the contest between Franklin D. Roosevelt and Wendell L. Willkie turned into a furious battle of buttons," reported Newsweek in 1944.

Not as bright were the prospects in 1944. The button industry was thwarted by government restrictions on war supplies, and the mill-end black plate steel used to make buttons could be used only through priority order.

Although most button makers had the necessary metals on hand, the biggest fear was that the Democratic and Republican national conventions would conduct campaigns of wartime simplicity with a minimum of buttons and gaud. As a second-time incumbent, Franklin D. Roosevelt didn't need the publicity anyway.

Many felt production of campaign buttons would border on unpatriotism as an unnecessary use of essential war materials.

However, button manufacturers were busily calculating stand-out as well as dark-horse presidential possibilities, and produced pre-nomination booster buttons. They worked in vain. An offer to make Roosevelt buttons was turned down by the Democratic National Committee in February 1944. The Republicans had asked one large Chicago button manufacturer to produce buttons for the 1944 campaign, but when the company sent a representative to get an OK from the WPB (War Production Board) steel division on release of materials, they could give no answer.

"The WPB won't say yes, and it won't say no," the Chicago button maker explained.

Prior to the campaign, button-makers had kept busy producing identification buttons for industrial war plants and had no trouble getting the WPB OK. But the ID buttons had unquestionable priority over campaign buttons.

By late October, in the heat of a normal campaign when buttons were usually abundant and tugging at the lapels of thousands of Americans, the Democratic National Committee hadn't ordered a single button. The Republicans sponsored only two conservative pin-ons, one red-white-blue with the words "Dewey-Bricker" and one blue and white saying simply "Dewey."



I Buy Civil Rights & Black Panther Pinbacks, Posters, Flyers & More.

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**Tony Lee**

tonylee08560@gmail.com

**609-310-0817**



"We are conducting a most conservative campaign because of war-time restrictions on materials," explained a N.Y. campaign head.

One of the few widely distributed FDR buttons in 1944 was one issued by the PAC. About one million of the penny-size lithograph buttons, which accompanied a one dollar donation, were made. They show Roosevelt's head, and a red-circled "OK" skimming the chin.

Almost all other 1944 buttons were issued by private individuals, organizations or the button manufacturers themselves. In an article that appeared in The New York Times on Oct. 22, 1944, they suggested, "Roosevelt supporters will have to dig out their old stars-and-stripes FDR buttons if they want to wear any."

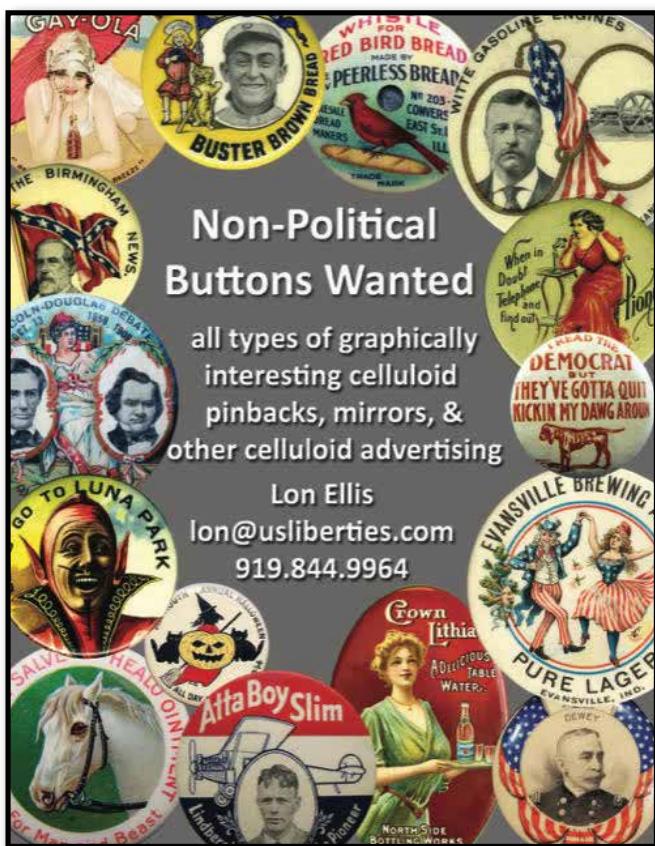


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# Wanted



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Best prices paid for items  
I need for my collection.

# Wisconsin's 1946 Flying Badgers

By Dave Quintin, APIC 2776

A recent E-bay acquisition of a small group of paper items from the 1946 Wisconsin Republican primary election proved more educational than anticipated.

A little bit of background will help to understand the images depicted here.

Going into the 1946 Republican primary, two factions of the Republican party vied for victory.

The Progressives were led by U.S. Sen. Robert "Young Bob" LaFollette, Jr., running for re-election, and the incumbent Gov. Walter S. Goodland. The old guard, or Stalwarts as they were called, chose to abandon the two incumbents and at the GOP convention took the unusual step of giving their official endorsement to Joseph McCarthy for U.S. Senate and Delbert J. Kenny for governor.

McCarthy had never won a statewide election, but went on to defeat his Democrat opponent, Howard J. McMurry, in the general election garnering more than 61 percent of the vote. Kenny lost the primary to Goodland, who was re-elected for a second term in the general election.

What is so interesting about this group of ephemera is the organization that was formed to support both stalwart Republican candidates in this 1946 primary, the Flying Badgers. As described in the letter dated Aug. 5, 1946, from the Young Republican Federation of Wisconsin, the newly formed Flying Badgers Squadron was coined to serve the purpose of identifying all of us who are going to circulate throughout the state on the weekend before the primary and distribute campaign literature and promote the Republican primary candidates.

The group used aircraft terms such as:

Wing Commander

– Statewide head of group

Squadron

Commander –

Individual over a specific geographic area

Bombardiers –



responsible for distributing campaign literature in a given area – several towns Flight Captains – car drivers

Quite a number of paper items were produced to achieve their goal, including graphic letterheads, envelopes, membership cards and various instruction forms to guide the Badgers as they went about their mission.

I suspect most of this material has been disposed of during the past nearly eighty years. I have been collecting for more than 50 years and this is the first time I have seen any of it. Another part of election history that makes the hobby ever interesting.

**Judge Joseph R. McCarthy**  
Regular Republican Candidate  
FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Able and energetic, Circuit Judge Joseph R. McCarthy, 37, of Appleton, is adequately qualified to represent Wisconsin in the United States Senate. Born on a farm at Grand Chute, Wisconsin, he was recognized as a judge and soldier after being graduated by the law school of Marquette University of Milwaukee. At 20 he was the youngest circuit judge in the United States. Elected as a private in the Marines, Judge McCarthy served three years in the South Pacific in World War II. He was in combat at Bougainville, Saipan, Guam and New Georgia.

**Delbert J. Kenny**  
Regular Republican Candidate  
FOR GOVERNOR OF WISCONSIN

Delbert J. Kenny, 50, of West Bend has the broad, education, and business training that will insure efficient administration of the state government. Civic leader, educator and active business man, he is president of the E. C. Ziegler & Company of West Bend, an investment firm. He is a veteran of World War I and is a past state commander of the American Legion. He is a graduate of Platteville State Teachers College and studied law at Marquette and the University of Wisconsin. During World War II he was awarded the Personal Navy "E" for outstanding civic service to the government.

**OSCAR BENNEBOHM**

Regular Republican Candidate  
FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Oscar Bennebohm was born on a farm in Columbia County, Wisconsin. He worked his way through the School of Pharmacy at the University of Wisconsin and is a veteran of World War I. He is a member of the American Legion and a past president of the Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Association. He is president of Remmels Drug Stores in Madison. He is now serving his first term as Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin.

**FRED R. ZIMMERMAN**

Regular Republican Candidate  
FOR SECRETARY OF STATE

Fred Zimmerman, an outstanding public leader, began his career as a state official in 1906 when he was elected to the state legislature as a member of the assembly. He was Governor of Wisconsin from 1927 to 1929. He is now serving his 12th term year as Secretary of State of Wisconsin. In 1916, 1920, 1924, 1940, he was a delegate to the National Republican convention.

**JOHN M. SMITH**

Regular Republican Candidate  
FOR STATE TREASURER

John Smith is completing his fourth term as head of the State's Treasury Department. He has been president of the Lumbermen's Bank of Shell Lake, Wisconsin since 1925 and is a former president of the Wisconsin Bankers' Association. He worked as a young man as a telegraph operator and station agent for the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad.

**HERMAN C. RUNGE**

Regular Republican Candidate  
FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

Herman C. Runge, 50, of Sheboygan, served three successive two-year terms as district attorney of Sheboygan County. He was president of the Wisconsin District Attorneys Association from 1928 to 1929. In 1939 he was elected mayor of Sheboygan for a two-year term. He served in World Wars I and II and is a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

**VOTE..**

**NEXT**  
**TUESDAY**  
**AUGUST 13th**

**For**

**REGULAR**

**REPUBLICANS**

**VOTE FOR**

**Regular**

**REPUBLICANS**

**McCARTHY**  
U.S. SENATOR

**KENNY**  
GOVERNOR

**BENNEBOHM**  
LIEUT. GOVERNOR

**ZIMMERMAN**  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**SMITH**  
STATE TREASURER

**RUNGE**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

**STATE ELECTION**  
**TUESDAY, AUG. 13TH**

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# The Locals Review

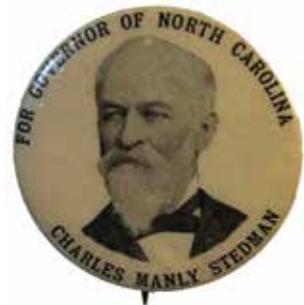
By David Quintin, APIC 2776

This edition of The Locals Review consists of an eclectic group of cellos from eight states. These are all early material and all rare to very uncommon items.

Most of the items haven't appeared on the market for years, which goes to validate their scarcity.

## NORTH CAROLINA – CHARLES MANLY STEDMAN, GOVERNOR

This is an uncommon 1 ½-inch size for this 1904 Democratic hopeful candidate. A former lieutenant governor from 1885 to 1889, he also ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for governor in 1888. This is the only example I have ever seen.



## KANSAS – HENRY H. TUCKER, U.S. SENATOR

How about 30 cent gas? Tucker ran and lost in the 1914 Republican primary against Charles Curtis, Hoover's VP. This was the first election in which Kansas voters directly elected their U.S. senators following the ratification of the 17th amendment to the Constitution in 1913. This is the only example I have ever seen.



## TENNESSEE – THOMAS ROSS PRESTON, GOVERNOR

This is another uncommon size for this period, a 1 ¾-inch celluloid for the 1914 Democratic nomination. Preston produced two additional cello buttons with this being the rarest. Democrat Tom C. Rye was the winner of the 1914 general election.



## MISSOURI – XENOPHON P. WILFLEY, U.S. SENATOR

I don't recall anyone else having a first name that starts with an X. This rare 1918 Democratic primary celluloid is from a special election that Republican Selden P. Spencer won. I have seen less than five of these through the years.



## WEST VIRGINIA – V.L. HIGHLAND, U.S. SENATOR

This is an uncommon size and color on this 1 ¼-inch bold cello. No party primaries were held for this election as the party chose the candidate through election.



## MAINE – AMMI S. LADD, GOVERNOR

The Prohibition Party was active during this period in American Politics and fielded candidates for governor in many states. This 7/8-inch celluloid supported Ladd in the general election on the Prohibition ticket in 1896 and 1898.



## OKLAHOMA – LEE CRUCE, GOVERNOR

This 7/8-inch celluloid comes from the 1910 election. Cruce lost the 1907 governor primary to Charles Haskell, who became Oklahoma's first governor. Cruce produced at least five cello buttons for these campaigns, this being one of the rarest.



## MINNESOTA – JOHN LIND, GOVERNOR

This sepia 1 1/4-inch celluloid trigate is from the 1900 campaign featuring Bryan for president, Lind for governor and M.J. Daly for U.S. Congressman from Minnesota's seventh district. Lind and Daly were running on a fusion ticket of the Democratic and Peoples Party.



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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](mailto:tonylee08560@gmail.com) or call him at 609-310-0817. Thank you!



# Goldwater, a Ham for Soldiers

By Rand York, APIC 2878

Most collectors know that "AuH2O" means "Goldwater" because it is a combination of the chemical symbols for Gold (Au) and Water (H2O). But how many know the meaning of "K7UGA," also from the Goldwater campaign of 1964?

Barry Goldwater was a Ham radio enthusiast from his youth. He subscribed to *Popular Mechanics* and built his own radio equipment for transmitting and receiving.

In later years, Barry decided to put his hobby to use for the families of U.S. soldiers serving in Vietnam so they could talk with their loved ones overseas. This was long before a plethora of satellites put the cost of global calling within the reach of most Americans. The result was countless soldiers being able to connect with their relatives and friends back home via Ham radio, at a time when they were perhaps at their loneliest.

The Goldwater radio call sign? K7UGA.



**K7UGA in 64**

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# TR and the Idaho Trial

**By John Koster, APIC 1720**

This 1-7/16" pin has seen better days, but it's got an interesting pedigree. According to *Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc. of 1912*, the Anthony Commercial Club was organized on Jan. 1, 1909, and under its auspices a building & loan association was organized to aid the people in becoming homeowners.

This was just at the time lame duck President Theodore Roosevelt was preparing to embark on his African safari, and continuing popular use was made of his DEE-LIGHTED grin. However, the really interesting connection as relates to the politics of this relatively small town, is a May 8, 1907 telegram written to him while still president, by an Anthony, KS, "Committee American Citizens" saying "Read Justice McKenney's dissenting opinion in the Moyer-Heywood-Pettibone case."

This refers to the infamous arrests in Colorado of the President of the Western Federation of Miners (WFM) Charles H. Moyer, Secretary of the Union William D. "Big Bill" Heywood and George A. Pettibone, its Business Agent, who were kidnapped and secretly whisked to the State of Idaho where they were charged with murder of Gov. Frank Steunenberg.

With regards to the trial, which was held in Boise, President Roosevelt had labeled the men (plus Eugene V. Debs) "undesirable citizens" ("President Scorns Enmity of Labor" *Chicago Tribune*, Vol. 66, No. 98, April 24, 1907) before they had been allowed their day in court. Defended by Clarence Darrow, the men were acquitted of the charges. The WFM, by the way, had played a key role in the founding of the Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.) in 1905. A photograph also exists of a whistlestop TR made in Anthony (perhaps on his grand tour of the western United States between April and June of 1903).

The pin has no back paper or manufacturer's info.



## Announcing the APIC Mark Jacobs 2026 Smithsonian Internship Program

**2026 Six Week Summer Internship Application Deadline March 1st, 2026**

For more info & an application, contact:  
 Scott Jasnoch  
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**GREAT OPPORTUNITY!**

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# AMERICANA & POLITICAL

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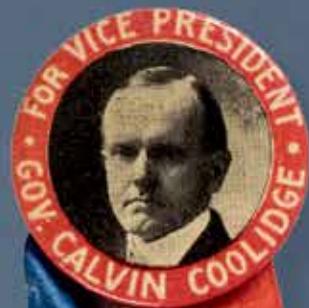
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