

EDWIN PULS DISPLAYS PRIZED CAMPAIGN INSIGNIA. He now has over 3,000 in his collection. (Eccentric Staff Photo)

## GOP '52 Convention Adds To Collection

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR  
Special Writer for The Eccentric

Edwin Puls of 185 Linden, had an opportunity to add to his collection last week. He visited the Republican convention while he was in Chicago on business and came home with buttons and badges of the presidential nominees.

As far as he can determine, he is the only collector in Michigan of presidential campaign insignia. If there are others, Ed would like to know who they are, because he would like to do some trading. This unique collection started about 12 years ago when his wife Agnes, looking for luster pins, visited antique shops wherever she happened to be.

In a little shop in Allen, Michigan, Mrs. Puls was so long looking that Ed, who was waiting outside in the car, got tired and went in to get her. There he saw a Lincoln campaign ribbon and his presidential campaign insignia collection started right then. "Before that incident," Ed says, "I wouldn't have been found dead, much less alive, in an antique shop."

Now he goes in all the shops with her, and while she is looking at glass, he is looking for old campaign material. His collection has grown with the years and now consists of about 3000 items and dates from 1853 to the present. His collection is mounted in several large books and he also has several boxes of loose campaign material which is difficult to mount.

There are three phases to the presidential campaign insignia material, Puls says. At first the campaign material consisted almost entirely of metal disks, called tokens, which look like commemorative coins. On them was the candidate's face or bust in relief and usually had a slogan of the party or the plank of the candidate's platform along with the date. Some were

I know a man in this town who, proud only by his own possessions and sense of gratitude, goes out of his way to help others. . . to help run in line of his own. . . always he confuses that his best satisfactions come from such good acts.

Speech, Free Men, Free Territory?" The second phase of the campaign insignia, Puls explained, starts in about the time of Abraham Lincoln's first campaign in 1860. Photography was just getting started and pictures of the candidates in tin type were placed on buttons, stick pins, ribbon badges and coins.

ONE SUCH TOKEN to be used as a watch fob has the face of Lincoln on one side and Hamilton, the vice-presidential candidate, on the other. Another has Lincoln's first name spelled "Abram." Puls has tokens from both campaigns, showing pictures of the beardless Lincoln as well as the familiar bearded Lincoln. Around 1896, Puls says, the third phase began when manufacturers were familiar with the new material, celluloid, and put it to many uses, including campaign buttons by the millions. He has a press many of these early celluloid buttons including one from the Labor party of 1896, with the slogan "We Want \$2 a Day and Roast Beef."

AMONG THE oddities in his collection is a small brass elephant with a blanket on his back. When a catch on the blanket is released, it flies up and the picture of the candidate is revealed. Another such type is the "presidential chair" pin, where the seat of the chair fits up and shows the face of Benjamin Harrison. One pin is in the form of a bicycle, with pictures of Teddy Roosevelt and his running mate, Fairbanks, as wheels of the bicycle. The campaigns of William Jennings Bryan brought forth a rash of various kinds of insignia. Puls has silver bugs, for Bryan, as well as gold bugs for the opposing party. He has celluloid buttons with the Bryan slogan, "The Free and Unlimited Coinage of Silver at the Ratio of 16 to 1."

ANOTHER BUTTON is in the form of a daisy with a gold center with the figure 1 and 16 petals of silver around it. Some of the pins ridicule Bryan and his platypus. One is of a silver colored metal pig, with a brass disk attached to the tail, on which are the words "Secure money."

Modern political insignia are not nearly as interesting, Puls believes, as the older metal types with their intricate and well made designs. Of the modern insignia he finds the Landon sunflower buttons of the campaign of 1936, a little different and interesting. A display of the Puls campaign insignia will be shown at the Baldwin Public Library next week.

## 10-Story Drop, 60 MPH Crack-up Same to Your Car

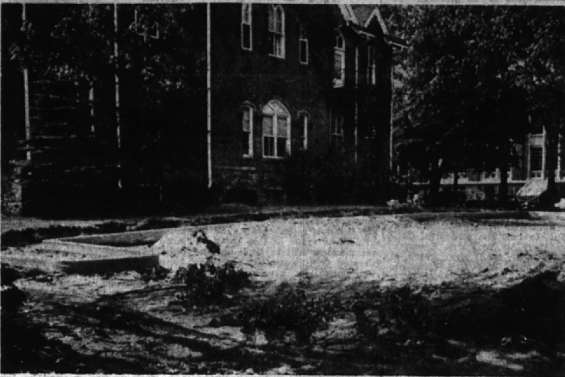
"If you'll take the trouble to haul your car to the top of a 10-story building, then push it off, you'll see what can happen when you smack into any solid object at sixty miles an hour," was the comment of Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley during a discussion of the dangers of speed. "You look at a car that has been in a smashup because it was going too fast," Moxley continued, "and you see shattered glass and broken, twisted metal. "What you don't see, unless you witness the crash, is the broken bodies of the persons riding in that car. They, after all, are what count. "Remember, you can always buy a new car, but members of your families or your friends are mighty hard to replace!"

MOXLEY CONTINUED his warnings against excessive speed by telling drivers to think about speed hazards before they step on the brakes. "Attempts to save a few minutes of time are not worth the risk involved and certainly not a factor in saving lives. To everyone who drives a car and those who expect to drive in the near future I say: Drive more slowly and live longer."

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NO, IT ISN'T a wading pool that's being constructed between Hill school and Chester street, but a parking area. The concrete "fences," just about wading pool height, have caused quite a bit of comment and wonderment for those who have seen them. The area will soon be smoothed off and made into an off-street parking section for staff members and visitors.



ALSO AT HILL school, this particular "hole in the ground" will eventually turn into a loading dock for trucks delivering school supplies. The program will call for the relocation of one door in the building which will give entry to a storage section for books and classroom materials for the several elementary schools in the Birmingham district. (Eccentric Staff Photos)

★ Smile a Minute . . . he might have two balloons. "I'm sorry," was the reply, "but we only give one balloon to each boy. Have you a brother anxious to receive one of the playthings. As one small boy came up with, and I want one for him." —Coronet to the clerk, he asked politely if

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## Localite Attending Archaeological School At University of Arizona

Among the 28 student archaeologists from throughout the United States attending the summer session at the University of Arizona archaeological field school at Point of Pines, Arizona is Kathleen Scheffele, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Webster Scheffele, 176 Linden.

student at the University of Arizona, is attending the school to learn excavating and to record the stories of ancient civilizations on actual ruins sites.

Relics of prehistoric Indian civilization in the Southwest as early as 1000 BC are being uncovered in their century old burial grounds by the summer students at Point of Pines.

General news deadline is 4:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

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