



**Pin Your Man**

Celluloid and metal pins came into common campaign use late in the last century. Their use in presidential campaigns does not always wait upon the conventions as in the case of General McArthur who was considered a possible nominee for the Republicans in 1952. The latest pin pictured here at the bottom is that used by Stevenson supporters and contrasts with that of McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt, directly opposite the Landon-Knox badge.

## Buttons Portray Political Past

By IRMA DAVIS  
Lathrup Correspondent

The presidential campaign items of today derive from a long line of campaign material. Since the race won by John Adams in 1796, candidates have been promoted by posters and pins, banners and badges, lanterns and lithographs.

Whether the items were useful or decorative, their variety is almost uncountable.

A major means of reaching the voters, who numbered perhaps 1,000,000 in 1800, the various tokens were much more elaborate in earlier campaigns. Generally, they fell into two categories: "for" and "agin'", and some of the latter range from macabre to vicious.

AN "ANTI" PIN used in McKinley's campaign of 1896 was shaped like a coffin whose hinged lid opened to reveal the head of his opponent, William Jennings Bryan. It bore the inscription "Free Silver Knocked Him Out."

In turn, the Gold Standard, supported by the Republicans, was lambasted by the Democrats who came up with a skeleton bearing the legend "Death to the Trusts."

CAST-IRON reliefs, glass paper-weights and pins representing his "full dinner pail" were also used in this campaign, promising prosperity to voters.

The earliest campaign pins were evolved for John Adams. Wood cuts of the second president were rimmed with pewter and covered with mica or glass. Later, and more rarely, the vice presidential nominee's likeness was slipped into the same frame.

In Jackson's second campaign and that of Martin Van Buren, in 1828 and 1836 respectively, tokens were widely used, usually in medal form. They were generally made of copper, brass, silver or other metal.

Medallions were often pierced to be worn but were not used much after 1900.

AROUND THIS period "hard times tokens" began to appear. The size of a large penny, they doubled as political propaganda and money during the depression and scarcity of coin that followed Jackson's closing of the Bank of



**Picturesque Fob**

A picturesque and tiny item used in the campaign of 1888 is this glass-enclosed picture of Levi Parsons Morton who ran for vice-president with Benjamin Harrison. Usually only the president's likeness was used in tokens of this type, making this a rather rare political memento which could be worn as a watch fob.



**Stove Pipe Cover Candidates**

Typical of the variety of items, both functional and decorative, that were used in many presidential campaigns is this stove pipe cover. Repent, Taft and James Schoolcraft Sherman, are pictured in twin ovals in the center. The plate is edged with likenesses of other party candidates. The "hot air" generally associated with pre-election rivalries and stoves does not hold true of this relatively quiet national campaign. This type of political propaganda was also used in the McKinley campaigns of 1896 and 1900, a

period rich in party souvenirs. Items on this page are from collection of Irma Davis. (Eccentric Photos).



**Currier & Ives Banner**

Currier and Ives were commissioned by many political parties to prepare campaign "banners" as early as the 1844 contest. John Charles Fremont, first Republican candidate in 1856, is shown here in his 1864 try against Lincoln. His running-mate was John Cochrane and their party was the Radical Democrat.



**Full Dinner Pail**

One of the noisiest contests was that of William McKinley-Garret Augustus Hobart versus Democrat William Jennings Bryan in 1896. This satin ribbon and holder is one of the many rather expensive items used in the campaign. The "full-dinner pail" slogan is a reminder that prosperity played a part in many a contest.

When you add two to two, you get four—if you use the law of arithmetic. When you act kindly, lovingly, in the spirit of unselfishness, you should receive the gift of the same humanities in return... perhaps not always from the one you aided, but certainly, some time in some way, from others. Mathematics deals with a science... kindness, patience, love deal with God's reflection in people.

## The Birmingham Eccentric

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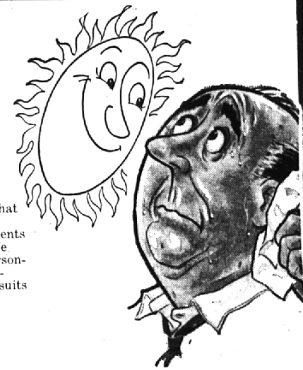
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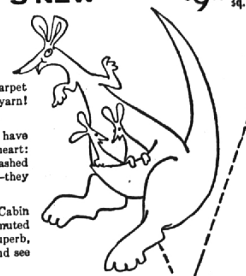
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