

# HYANNISPORTER

Official Newsletter of the Kennedy Political Items Collectors  
Founded in 1974

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IN MEMORY OF  
BONNIE C. GARDNER,  
1932-2003

## LONG AWAITED ACQUISITIONS



*KPIC member Peter Klages of Garching, Germany has been looking for this sculpture since he first saw it at the Kennedy museum in Hyannis, Massachusetts.*

After the tragic death of John F. Kennedy Jr. in the summer of 1999, the sculptor David Lewis felt that JFK, Jr. should be honored along with his father. So, in August 2000, Lewis unveiled a proposed \$300,000 sculpture of the two, titled *'What Could Have Been'*, to be placed in Hyannis, Massachusetts. The town council of Barnstable, in which Hyannis is located, gave its approval. So did the Kennedy family.

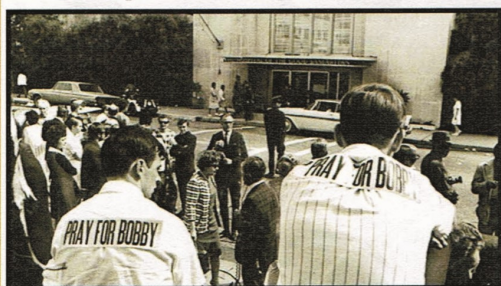
In August 2000, the project was put on hold because although the president died when his son was barely 3 years old, the sculpture depicts them both as adults. It was a historical anachronism that many residents felt was in poor taste. Lewis' sculpture was intended to life-size and be placed in Hyannis, Mass., but it was never completed due to objections by residents in the area. Lewis did create small versions of the sculpture for private sale.



**33 Years** is a very long time to search for a bumper sticker. But that was how long it took me to add a "Pray for Bobby" bumper sticker to my RFK collection. I first saw the item on a dealer table at the 1981 APIC National Convention in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. There was no price on it. After several attempts and price offers, it was obvious that the dealer either had no idea what the item was worth monetarily or did not really want to sell it.

Ten years later the same dealer had the same bumper sticker at a collectibles show (it might have been in Washington, D.C.) Again, it was unpriced. So I inquired as I had done a decade earlier and immediately realized that he did not remember our previous encounter. I could have recorded that conversation and played it back this time. As I continued on my way around the showroom floor, I put it out of my mind and decided that piece of paper was never going to find its way into my collection.

A Quite a few years later, while I was room-hopping at the Langhorne Pennsylvania Regional Convention, there was the same sticker on display in the room of that same dealer. Without really getting too hopeful, I asked if it were for sale and what the price would be. This time I got a definite answer—he intended to put it into one of the nationwide collectible auctions, so I could bid on it there.



When it came out in Hake's Americana Auction in the spring of 2014, I earmarked it to place a bid nearer to the closing date. But I missed bidding on it because we were away that week and I did not have access to a computer. But before I could begin kicking myself, I saw the sticker being offered in the "unsold items listing" that Hake's publishes after each of their auctions. There it was... I didn't miss this second chance; made a quick phone call, and a few days later the extremely elusive "Pray for Bobby" bumper sticker was at last in my collection.

If you don't know the story behind these bumper stickers, here is a recap:

**PRAY FOR BOBBY**

After being shot in the early hours of June 5, 1968, RFK was taken to the Los Angeles Hospital of the Good Samaritan for surgery. A local printer, Max Migdol, rushed out 5000 bumper stickers reading: "Pray For Bobby." His daughter and other girls gave them away to all takers. This is one of two known color varieties (the other blue on white) and a rare surviving example distributed during the 26 hours RFK clung to life.

*Harvey Goldberg*