

HYANNISPORTER

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DIRECTOR &
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
HARVEY GOLDBERG



IN MEMORY OF
BONNIE C. GARDNER,
1932-2003

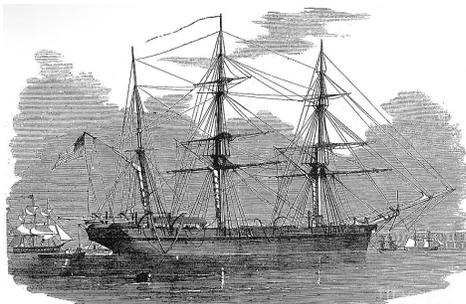
THE RESOLUTE DESK



The Resolute Desk, originally called the President Hayes desk, is a Nineteenth Century oak desk used by Presidents of the United States as their Oval Office desk. The most famous feature of the Oval Office is the Resolute Desk.

It was a gift from Queen Victoria to President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1880 and was built from the oak timbers of the British Arctic exploration ship *HMS Resolute*. The 1,300-pound (590-kilogram) desk was created by carpenter William Evenden, in Kent, England from a design by the company of Morant, Boyd, & Blanford.

HMS Resolute (right) was frozen in the ice and abandoned in Melville Sound (in the Northwest Territories of Canada) in 1854 while searching for the previously lost Arctic expedition of Sir John Franklin in 1845.



The ship was found in 1855 floating in the Davis Strait by the American whaling ship, *George Henry*. *Resolute* was repaired and returned to England as a goodwill gesture from the United States.

After serving as a supply vessel in the British Navy for an additional 23 years, the ship was decommissioned in 1879 and subsequently broken up in Chatham Dockyard in Chatham, England. Queen Victoria asked that a piece of furniture be built from the timbers of *HMS Resolute* as a gift to the United States. It was an effort on both sides to improve relations between the two countries.

Shortly after it was received on November 23, 1880, the Resolute Desk was moved to the second floor of the White House. It stayed in the President's Office and upstairs study on the east side of the second floor until the 1948 to 1952 White House Reconstruction. After the reconstruction it was placed in the Broadcast Room where Dwight D. Eisenhower used it during both radio and television broadcasts.

First Lady Jackie Kennedy, found the desk downstairs in the Broadcast Room when she was restoring the White House. JFK was actually the first President to use the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office.

Kennedy, who loved the sea, loved the desk and the first history behind it. He and every President who has used it since have all placed their own inspirational and personal items on it. *Continued...*

TIME



When I read Chuck Hagopian's article on the 25th anniversary of KPIC's Chicago National Convention, (page 3) I could not believe it. What is that saying... *"Time and tide wait for no man"*.

How true that is. I awoke on my last birthday with the tune *"76 Trombones"* from the show *Music Man*. Only one question-where did all those years go?

The Kennedy years we recall in every issue of the *Hyannisporter* are now a full six decades ago. Yet most of us will always picture John Kennedy as that man who entered the White House as the youngest man to be *elected* President of the United States. (Theodore Roosevelt was the youngest to serve as president but he took office on William McKinley's assassination in 1901.

Some people might accuse me of 'living in the past'. But then there is the cliché, *"Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it"*.

Those who know that I was a teacher almost always think I taught history. That is incorrect. What I taught was called Industrial Arts - shop class. My classes included a wide variety of things such as woodworking, metalwork, automotives, drafting, computers, photography, and a few other subjects.

I enjoyed my career for the most part, and at the same time, I learned a great deal. Preparing for my classes I learned things about my areas of concentration that I never knew before.

I was fortunate enough to have been taught how to write by an English teacher my senior year in high school. Thank you, Mrs. Calendar! And I do enjoy doing research which leads to unearthing details and information, much of which is often new to me. And I really enjoy doing the layouts of each newsletter.

What's this got to do with KPIC and the *Hyannisporter*? Quite simply, it helps me find new and different areas to write about the Kennedys after all these years.

Harvey

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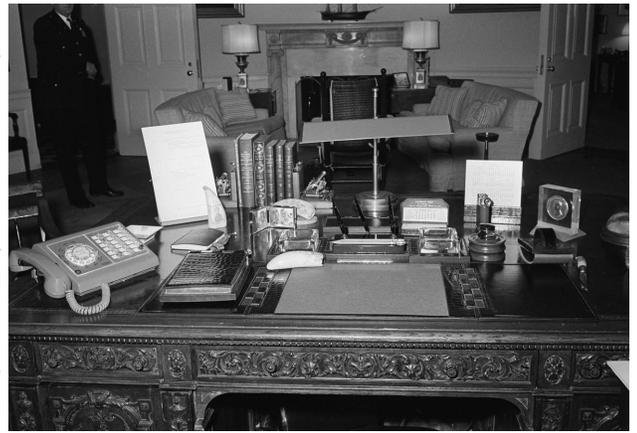


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From Page 1...

JFK kept a lot of things on his desk (right). One special item was a paperweight made from the coconut on which he carved an S.O.S. when his PT boat was sunk in World War II. He also had a Breton fisherman's prayer written on a plaque: "*Oh God, thy sea is so great and my boat is so small.*" Young John Kennedy Jr. liked to play under the desk pretending the panel was a secret door. (Photo at the bottom of the page).



Among the items on President Kennedy's desk were a Black Alligator desk set (desk pad, paper clip & pencil holder, note pad, rocker blotter and holder, cigarette lighter, and letter sorter); the Presidential Appointments Schedule for November 21, 1963; the Coconut Shell with the carved message (encased in plastic) "*Nauro Isl. Native Knows Posit. He Can Pilot. 11 Alive Need Small Boat. Kennedy.*"; a set of Book-ends with replicas of cannon mounted on *U.S.S. CONSTITUTION* (Old Ironsides); also a Steuben Glass Etching of a PT Boat and Presidential Seal; the Gold Inaugural Medal presented to him by the Inaugural Committee; a Waterford crystal ashtray with the Kennedy coat-of-arms, and several pieces of scrimshaw.

The books often kept on the desk included "*As We Remember Joe*", "*Strategy of Peace*", "*Profiles in Courage*", "*To Turn The Tide*", "*Why England Slept*", and several others. Three telephones included a large green multi-line phone, two small black phone for communicating with his staff and the family part of the White House. A few other things were framed photos of Caroline and John, Jr., a Hercolite Executive Lamp No. 605SB made by Herco Art Mfg. of Wallingford, Connecticut. Note that the famous "hot line" installed between Washington and Moscow was not a telephone but a teletype machine producing typewritten communications at each end.



Lyndon Johnson was too big for the desk so he used a bigger, more plain desk and called it the "Johnson Desk" (left). He had the Resolute Desk removed from the White House and allowed it to be taken on a traveling exhibition with artifacts from the Kennedy Presidential Library. It was then put on display in the Smithsonian Institution.

President Jimmy Carter brought the Resolute Desk back to the Oval Office in 1977 where it has remained except for George H.W. Bush. It was sent back to storage just five months into George Bush's presidency. He preferred a simpler, less adorned walnut desk called the "C&O Desk" which was originally made for the owners of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Co. circa 1920 and later donated to the White House. Bush had used it as Vice President and when he was elected president in 1980 he brought the C&O Desk to his Oval Office. President Joe Biden has decided to use the Resolute Desk.

The first replica of the Resolute Desk was commissioned in 1978 for a permanent display at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston, and since then five other presidential libraries and countless other museums, libraries, tourist attractions, and a number of private homes and offices have acquired copies of the desk. Five other presidential libraries also display replicas of the Resolute Desk. Besides the Kennedy Library, four others display the desk as part of recreation Oval Offices: the Clinton Presidential Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, the George W. Bush Presidential Center in University Park, Texas, the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, California. The Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, Ohio, displays a reproduction of the Resolute Desk in their "Presidents Gallery" exhibition.

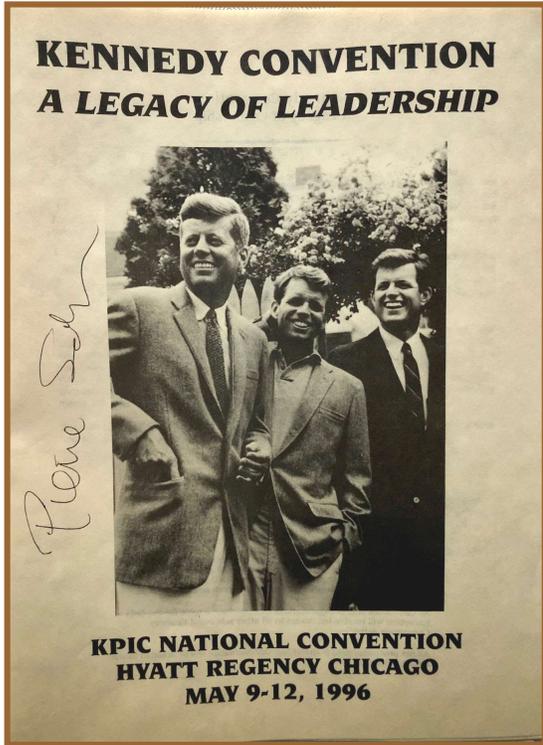
There are a number of privately owned copies of the Resolute Desk including that of KPIC member Peter Klages of Garching, Germany who has the desk in his office. Peter has also been acquiring reproductions and copies of many of the objects that JFK had on his desk during his short time as President. Peter's desire is to duplicate the desk and its appearance as closely as possible to the way it was in JFK's Oval Office. See the accompanying article on page 11.



JFK Carved "SOS" Coconut

KPIC CHICAGO – 25TH ANNIVERSARY

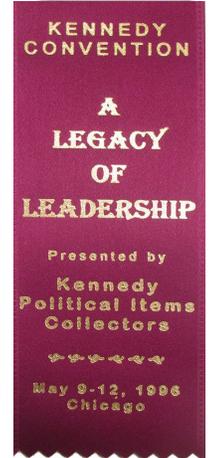
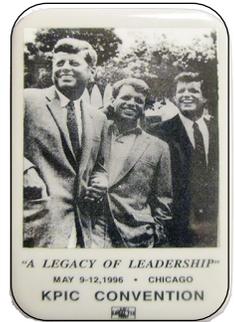
CHARLES HAGOPIAN, JR.



Last month (May) marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of KPIC's convention in Chicago. For four days, we celebrated the life and times of President John F. Kennedy. We were honored to have as our distinguished guests, JFK's press secretary, Pierre Salinger, as our Keynote Speaker along with JFK photographer Jacques Lowe, Melody Miller, and Bill Wilson adding their personal reflections of President Kennedy. Also with us was ABC 7 Chicago News political commentator Hugh Hill, who had covered the Kennedy-Nixon debate in Chicago. He led a Q&A session.

Everyone who attended was given a program booklet containing letters from individuals such as President Bill Clinton, Ted Sorenson, Pierre Salinger, Dave Powers, Walter Cronkite, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and other luminaries, each sharing the impact JFK had on their respective lives.

What came out of KPIC Chicago For me was a friendship with Pierre Salinger that would continue until his passing in 2004. He was a kind man who always made himself available. My wife, Margaret, and I were



fortunate to host Pierre at our home for dinner. He returned the graciousness on the few occasions I was in Washington, D.C.

It wasn't just the stories he shared of his life and times with JFK, RFK, and LBJ. More so, it was his interest in me, personally, and my career. He would call on Saturday mornings and discuss current events, what was happening in our own lives, and JFK. These conversations and friendship will always be a special part of my life.

Another gift that came from being a part of KPIC is my friendship with Harvey Goldberg. KPIC Chicago could not have happened without his continual support and guidance. Every step of the way, Harvey generously provided his infinite knowledge of President Kennedy, and suggestions for creating the best event possible for our fellow KPIC members.

Thank you to Harvey, John Henigan, the late Bonnie Gardner, and our VIP guests. For four days in May 1996 they provided a brief moment of Camelot in Chicago.

Editor's Note: The gathering in Chicago was officially called the "Legacy of Leadership Convention". Unofficially we referred to it as the "KPIC National Convention". The schedule offered a private showing of the PT-109 movie starring Cliff Robertson on Thursday (May 9, 1996) followed by a program Friday with Bill Peterson and his Orchestra in concert, and the JFK Library film "JFK 1917-1963". Saturday featured a question and answer discussion panel with our VIP guests, followed by a gala reception in the evening with Keynote Speaker Pierre Salinger. The whole event ended with a special KPIC Breakfast on Sunday, after which people departed for home.

The Q&A was moderated by Hugh Hill and paneled by Pierre Salinger, Bill Wilson (JFK campaign advanceman), Melody Miller (Kennedy publicist and campaign staff member), & Jacques Lowe (White House Special Photographer). It was a wonderful experience to say the least. Here were four members of the former Kennedy administration answering questions and talking about their experiences with JFK.

And the Saturday evening gala dinner was another unbelievable experience with Pierre Salinger not only reiterating his long relationship with JFK, but the times, the headlines, and the world as it was at that time. He even requested a piano be brought in so that he could play several selections for us. Few people knew that he was also a concert pianist.

And where our convention chairman thanked Bonnie Gardner, John Henigan, and me for much of its success. The entire convention was successful as the result of the efforts of Chuck Hagopian and his wife Margaret. They were not only the convention chairs, the on-site managers, but the major organizers of it all. Thank you, my friends!



Another Dark Anniversary

Harvey Goldberg

Where were you when you heard? I was driving to work around 7:30am on Thursday, June 6, 1968 when I heard about RFK's assassination on the car radio. I thought I heard wrong and put another station on. The same tragically sad and unbelievable news was on every station. I pulled over and stopped the car - shaking and tearing up. My first thought was one word - "Why?" That is a question that will probably never be answered 100% to everyone's satisfaction. But it makes no difference. Learning exactly what went through the mind of his assassin will not bring Bobby Kennedy back, or undo the changes in history that have occurred in the fifty-three years since.

John Kennedy was just beginning to fit into the job of President when his life was cut short; Ted Kennedy found his place in the U.S. Senate, serving nearly half a century and becoming one of the most noteworthy Senators; Robert Kennedy never had a chance to fulfill his destiny. And that, for all Americans - in fact for much of the world - is our loss.

Some will say that he probably would not have won the presidency even if he did win the Democratic nomination in 1968. Who is to say that things would have gone the other way? We don't know that either, and never will. Here are parts of an essay by Matthew Dallek (son of author Robert Dallek who wrote "*An Unfinished Life*" - a biography of JFK).

Historians have long wondered what would have happened had Robert F. Kennedy lived. What if he had continued his 1968 presidential campaign over 50 years ago? Could he have forged a working-class political coalition that might have cauterized the nation's racial wounds, arrested the slide into polarization and won working-class white support for the Democratic Party? Could RFK have built a multi-racial coalition featuring African-Americans and working-class whites?

These what-ifs have received more than modest attention from historians. In 1968, RFK was "the last liberal who could reach both races as well as both generations," wrote historian John Morton Blum. At the time of his murder, Kennedy was beginning to construct "coalitions of supporters that cut across race and class lines," historian James T. Patterson has argued. But beyond animating decades of historical scholarship and political analysis, the questions also emerged from a series of developments in 1968 that had begun to make Kennedy the unlikely face of a black-white lower-income political coalition...

Two events, a week apart, helped change the stakes for Kennedy's campaign, raising the question of what was lost when Kennedy was assassinated. On March 31, two weeks after RFK had entered the race, Johnson announced he would not seek his party's nomination. Although Johnson's decision helped clear a nominating path for Kennedy, it deprived his campaign of its chief foil and nemesis. Johnson's announcement that he would step up peace negotiations with North Vietnam further let some of the air out of Kennedy's campaign.

The murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4 altered Kennedy's campaign agenda and his national political identity. The combination of Johnson's withdrawal and King's assassination elevated Kennedy as a leader in the struggle to tamp down the divisive forces that were fraying the social fabric. His Indianapolis speech cemented his image as a leading liberal seeking to maintain people's faith in American institutions and its political culture. RFK "*had a real affinity for the hurt people of the world, the blacks, the poor, the misunderstood young,*" Gore Vidal, a critic, observed, and his campaign now drove that idea home.

He drew strong support from Mexican-Americans after he visited Cesar Chavez and Native American Indians saw him as a warrior, the "White Crazy Horse." Visits to Oklahoma and upstate New York [Native American] reservations deepened his reputation as a leader in the wars against poverty and racism. Puerto Ricans in New York City also rallied to the Kennedy cause.

Historians have speculated about Kennedy's political potential because from April 6 to the time of his own murder two months later, RFK was countering the political extremism and racial polarization that then defined American life. Kennedy came to represent hope for liberals, people of color and some working-class whites that a national leader could address their values and propose solutions to their social interests and economic needs.

They liked RFK in Indiana because they sensed that he stood for those who were disadvantaged—not so much economically—but because their opportunities were unfairly limited, their way of life held in disdain by the affluent middle classes."

What Kennedy offered was not necessarily centralized government solutions to the nation's intractable social and economic problems. Rather, he wished to use government to provide "incentives and opportunities," as one RFK aide put it. "What the people in our ghettos need is...independence, not the charity and favor of their fellow citizens, but equal claim of right and equal power to enforce those claims," RFK argued.

Had Kennedy not been murdered, he still would have faced long odds in the presidential contest. Besting Vice President Hubert Humphrey, Johnson's handpicked successor, to win the nomination would have been difficult. Defeating Nixon in November would have also been less than a sure bet. But there is a reason why over the past five decades so many liberals, scholars and political analysts have pondered what might have been. Kennedy spoke up against the war and in favor of civil rights. He brandished the theme of law and order, and offered solutions that relied less on Great Society programs than they did on plans to empower individuals through incentives.

History flows as much from structural factors, grassroots organizing and bottom-up developments as it does from the practice of high politics—campaigns and state-centered decisions. Nonetheless, over half a century later, it seems more than ever clear why Kennedy's all-too-brief campaign has achieved such mythic status. Richard Goodwin put it well when he explained what was lost when Kennedy was killed. "[RFK] alone among white American politicians might have been able to heal the widening divisions between black Americans and lower-income whites, between the hopeful young and a middle class that was turning away from hope," Richard Goodwin wrote in his memoirs.



Matthew Dallek

Matthew Dallek is associate professor at George Washington's Graduate School of Political Management. His more recent book is *Defenseless Under the Night: The Roosevelt Years and the Origins of Homeland Security*.



Four Little Words: *Ich bin ein Berliner*



Arrival in Germany

In West Berlin in 1963, Kennedy delivered his most eloquent speech on the world stage. Other than *ask not*, they were probably the most famous words he ever spoke. The attention of the world was drawn to what he himself considered the most heated spot in the Cold War. Unlike most of the speeches which were given to him by his speechwriters, he added four words to his Berlin address, hand-written in the margin - which were not even in English: "***Ich bin ein Berliner***".

On June 26, 1963, with the Berlin Wall as a background, Kennedy's bold support for democracy and self-government in the surrounded city may have been the high point of his time in the Oval Office.

Looking back almost two decades to the end of World War II, the former German capital was divided, as was the country itself. The East was controlled by the communists, the West by the U.S., England, and France, all democratic nations.

Soviet premiere Khrushchev called West Berlin - which was completely surrounded by East Germany - "*a bone in my throat*", a "painful thorn in [his] side", and swore to "*eradicate this splinter from the heart of Europe*". President Kennedy was deeply concerned that a future war in Europe, with the possible use of nuclear weapons, might be started over Berlin.

The two leaders had met at a summit conference in Vienna, Austria in June of 1961. Khrushchev threatened to sign a treaty with East Germany to restrict Western access to West Berlin.



The Vienna Summit 1961

Kennedy responded by announcing a major military buildup. Six weeks later in a TV broadcast, JFK called the besieged city of Berlin "*the great testing place of Western courage and will*", and at the same time announced that an attack on West Berlin would be considered an attack on the U.S.

The Soviet leader retreated from his strong position and did not sign the proposed treaty. At the same time, a stream of thousands of East Germans crossed into West. Suddenly the East German government - with Russian support - put up a wall of barbed wire across the center of Berlin from one side of the city to the other.

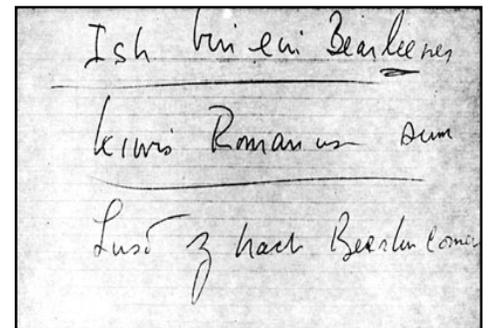
By the time of his state visit a few years later, the barbed wire had been replaced by an ugly concrete wall. The view of the wall and the contrast of East Berlin from the West (at least what he could see) saddened him greatly. The communist half of the city was barren - a virtual slum, while the West was a buoyant and very much alive populous center.

The speech he was to give at the city hall was to express support and unity for the plight of the West Berliners *without offending the Soviets*. It was not an easy task for his speechwriters and in the words of Ted Sorensen, it was "*the impossible task of emphasizing two extreme opposites in the same paragraph*". Even the U.S. military commander in Berlin called the speech 'terrible' as it was written and Kennedy agreed. Just before going up on the platform to speak, JFK made some changes to the speech in the margins and between the printed lines, crossing out some of the prepared text.

The speech draft originally used a statement from Roman times the, phrase that said everything back then: "*I am a citizen of Rome*" adding a few words in Latin. With the help of a translator he added a German equivalent: "*I am a Berliner*" and with a translator's help, wrote it out phonetically: "*Ish bin ein Bearleener*" (above, right).



Kennedy Visits the Berlin Wall





A rumor spread after his speech that they had gotten the translation wrong. Supposedly by adding the article "ein" before the word *Berliner* changed the meaning to "I am a jelly doughnut". JFK was correct.

In any case, the estimated crowd of 450,000 people understood. To say "Ich bin Berliner" would have suggested that he was born in Berlin. Adding the word "ein" implied being a Berliner in spirit.

All of this aside, in the end, President Kennedy delivered one of the most inspiring speeches of his presidency. "Two thousand years ago, the proudest boast was 'Civis Romanus sum' - ('I am a Citizen of Rome.'). Today, in the world of freedom, the proudest boast is "Ich bin ein Berliner!"

He continued with some severe criticisms of living under communism, regardless of 'offending the Soviets':

"There are many people in the world who really don't understand, or say they don't, what is the great issue between the free world and the communist world. Let them come to Berlin... There are some who say that communism is the wave of the future. Let them come to Berlin.. And there are even a few who say tht it's true that communism is an evil system, but it permits us to make economic progress. Lasst si nach Berlin kommen - Let them come to Berlin!" The speech pointed to West Berlin as a brave and proud example of freedom and left the Berlin Wall as an example of the evil of communism. He further noted that "Freedom has many difficulties and democracy is not perfect, but we have never had to put a wall up to keep our people in."

John Kennedy even went as far as predicting that eventually the Berlin Wall would come down, Germany would reunite, and democracy would spread through Eastern Europe.

In addition to the 450,000 who heard him speak in Berlin that day, millions around the world saw the speech on news broadcasts and video copies. Before ending his speech, President Kennedy further identified himself with the inhabitants of the split city: "Freedom is indivisible, and when one man is enslaved, all are not free. When all are free, then we can look forward to that day when this city will be joined as one and this country and this great continent of Europe in a peaceful and hopeful globe." And his conclusion connected him to non-free people all around the world: "All free men, wherever they live, are citizens of Berlin, and therefore as a free man, I take pride in the words 'Ich bin ein Berliner'"



40mm (approximately 1.5 inch) JFK Visit Medals



Lighter "European Trip of President Kennedy"



3-1/2" Celluloid



3" Celluloid



EMK THROUGH THE YEARS



1968



1968



1972



1972



1976



1976



1980



1980



1980

On the weekend of his inauguration, John Fitzgerald Kennedy gave his youngest brother Ted an engraved silver cigarette case with the biblical inscription, **“And the last shall be first.”**

In 1961, that prophecy seemed unlikely. There was no reason to even think that the youngest of the Kennedy brothers would ever be first. After all, JFK was 43 years old and expected to serve two terms in the White House and the President had also jokingly said to his brother Robert, who was then 35, **“After I’m through, how about you?”** Bobby tried in 1968.

Yet in 1962 Teddy was elected to his brother’s former Senate seat. And he was re-elected to his first full term in 1964 – by a huge majority. Still, few thought he would succeed, and he certainly would not follow in the path of his older brothers. But succeed he did – for almost 47 years. He is considered by many to be the finest legislator of his time, and, some historians say, of all time.

After RFK was killed in 1968 it was the general opinion that Ted Kennedy would run for the Presidency. His presidential ambitions ended with Chappaquiddick in 1969, but he did not fully acknowledge the notion until 1980 when he ran unsuccessfully against fellow Democrat and incumbent President Jimmy Carter. Ted Kennedy accepted the defeat and emerged a different individual. It took some time, but he truly found his calling in the Senate

He learned to compromise, to make deals, to work with members of the opposite party, and he won. A list of the thousands of bills he authored & the hundreds that became law would fill volumes. Unlike his three brothers he lived to ‘comb his gray hair’. His service in the U.S. Senate – almost 47 years – was longer than any of his brothers had lived.

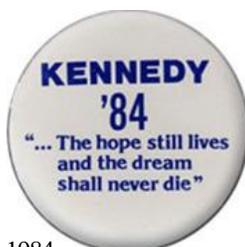
Ted Kennedy never became President. Yes, he was human, and flawed like every one of us; in spite of this, he left a tremendous legacy in the overall body of legislation that guided America in the latter third of the 20th and into the 21st Century. These laws will affect untold numbers of Americans for an undeterminable number of years into the future. He succeeded in the Senate, earning the title of **“Senator”** the way very few do; some say he ‘finished what his brothers began’. The prophecy had come true: the last was first.

Ted Kennedy was mentioned as a possible Democratic candidate for the office of President or Vice President in virtually every campaign from 1968 through 2008. His name came up in polls with regularity either for the presidency or as a running mate on a “dream ticket” with other potential nominees. These potential candidacies resulted in untold numbers of campaign items being produced and distributed for “draft Ted” movements as well as local, state, or national organizations which would have thrown their support to him had he decided to run.

Yet through eleven presidential election years, Edward M. Kennedy actually sought his party’s nomination only once—in 1980—when he unsuccessfully challenged incumbent President Jimmy Carter.

It has always been debated whether or not Ted Kennedy actually wanted to accept the ‘passing of the torch’ from his brothers. After publicly declining to run time and time again, and after the 1980 attempt, the Senator came to the life-changing decision that the United States Senate was his true calling. We will never know what kind of president this Kennedy brother would have made, but we will always apply that perpetual cliché, “What if...”

Pictured here are campaign buttons from each of the years that Ted Kennedy was considered or was a hopeful (which meant that his supporters ‘hoped he’d run’).



1984



1984



1988



1988



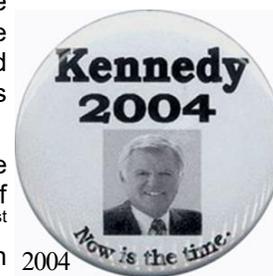
2008



2008



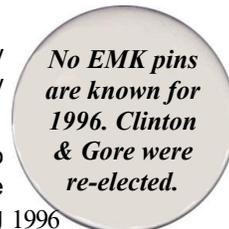
2008



2004



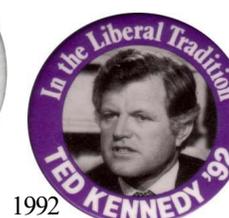
2000



1996



1992



1992

Anderson Auction #199

The 199th edition of the Anderson Auction closed on April 27-29, 2021. Pictured here are the Kennedy items offered in the auction. Prices include an 18% buyer's premium.



\$70.80



2 1/4" Celluloid \$33.04



3-1/2" Celluloid \$36.58



2 1/4" EMK \$67.26



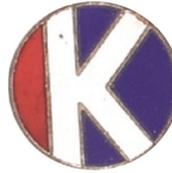
\$59.00



\$11.80



\$122.72



\$90.86



\$22.42



11x14 Window Card \$67.26
Plastic wrap caused the glare.



3-1/2" Celluloid \$36,580.00



1964 Trigate Poster
22" x 28" \$385.86



\$33.04



\$17.70



\$25.96



\$20.06



\$649.00



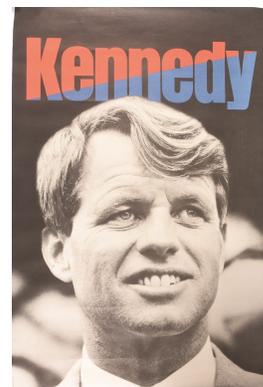
Framed 8.5x11 flier \$80.24



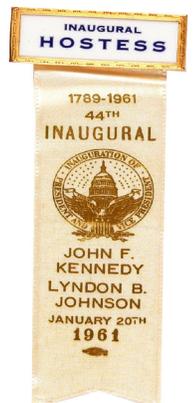
Flasher Charm
\$11.80



4" Celluloid \$236.00



24"x38" \$59.00



\$194.70

SOCK IT TO ME.... BOBBY!

In the late 1960s into the 1970s prime-time television was hitting new heights. We had the Ed Sullivan Show, Gunsmoke, Bonanza, My Three Sons, Lucille Ball, Lawrence Welk, Dragnet, and much more. But within all this relative uniformity debuted one of the most outstanding, highest-rated, and originally formatted programs for its time in TV history: *“Rowan and Martin’s Laugh-In”*.

The show was first broadcast in September 1967 as a one-time special, but viewer response was so strong that NBC looked forward to adding it to the regular schedule at the earliest possible opportunity. On January 22, 1968, Laugh-In began a regular stint on the small screen.

Hosted by the comedy duo of Dan Rowan and Dick Martin, the show was a fast-moving hour of sight gags, one-liner, short skits, and blackouts. The show was an immediate hit and did much to speed up the pace of TV comedy shows. It did not rely on the talents of guest stars, though many celebrities made cameo appearances form time to time.

There were forty regular cast members over the years who were previously unknown. Many went on to become stars in their own right: Goldie Hawn, Lily Tomlin, Eileen Brennan, Richard Dawson, arte Johnson, Henry Gibson, Jo Anne Worley, Dave Madden, Theresa Graves, Ruth Buzi, and Judy Carne among many others.

“Sock it to me!” opened the show, spoken by the English actress Judy Carne, who became known as the ‘Sock-It-To-Me Girl’. She would appear and chant the phrase over and over until -- never unsuspecting -- something dreadful happened to her. ... She was hit by a bucket of water or some other slapstick routine.

The actual phrase was taken from a hit record entitled 'Respect' recorded by Aretha Franklin, which featured a chorus repeating 'Sock it to me' quite rapidly in the background. It could mean “let me have it” or “Say whatever it is you have to say”. The phrase 'to sock it to someone' originally meant 'to put something bluntly' (and was used as such by Mark Twain in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*).

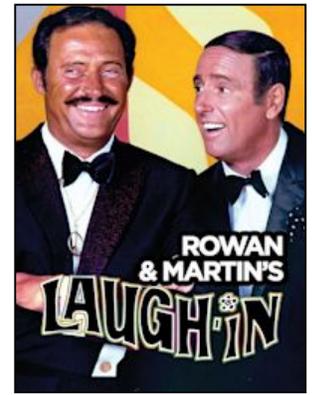
The idea was to keep the show moving. The premise was that if enough gags could be crammed into an hour, only a small number had to be genuinely funny for the show to succeed. Viewers would definitely not become bored. Laugh-in was the number one ranked TV show during its first two and a half years on the tube. It was still in the top ten when it ended its run in May, 1973.



The series poured out one catch phrase after another: “*Sock it to me*”, “*Look it up in your Funk and Wagnall’s*”, “*Verrrry interrrresting*”, “*Here come the judge*”, and “*You bet our bippie*” were a just a few of those that joined the English vocabulary, at least temporarily.

Big names made cameo appearances, often uttering one or more of these phrases during the show, including Richard (soon to become President of the United States) Nixon who uttered “*Sock it to me?*” on the September 16, 1968 show. During the 1968 presidential campaign a number of items with the slogan appeared for different candidates.

The RFK tie-in came about because of the attraction to his campaign by many young voters, many of them also Laugh-In fans. There was a natural adoption of several slogans from one to the other with the phrase that stuck immediately and most noticeably was “*Sock it to me Bobby!*” or “*Sock it to ‘em Bobby*”. Had Richard Nixon known this would become an RFK slogan, he might not have agreed to make a cameo appearance uttering that same phrase.



IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING THE APIC NATIONAL CONVENTION IN NASHVILLE JULY 29-AUGUST 1, 2021, PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP. THE KPIC CHAPTER MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 11:00am THURSDAY, JULY 29.
heg1@verizon.net, 732-382-4652

Want A Resolute Desk of Your Own?

Peter Klages, from Garching, Germany (pictured to the right), has been collecting John F. Kennedy since he was 19. He is now 62 years old and his fascination and commitment are still unchecked. When he had a solid professional foundation in his mid-40s, his two sons had moved out of the house and he was able to invest a bit of money in his hobby, he dreamed of having his own Kennedy room. His wife Sabine supported him, and acquisition of a replica of the Resolute Desk went to the top of the list.



During a hospital stay where he had plenty of time, he began researching. In doing so, he made a very surprising discovery. There was a manufacturer of the Resolute Desk in Germany who also delivered to the United States. Because of this, he got his Resolute Desk for about 1/3 of the cost in the USA.

Over time, he also wanted authentic and "valuable" pieces from the period and actually from President Kennedy, not just memorabilia. His collection became very extensive, including over 500 coins and medals. In addition to these items, his collection also includes busts, posters, images and portraits, paintings, campaign buttons & literature, and much more. The space to display all these beautiful things was becoming increasingly scarce. Actually, he reported, there was no more space.

Then by chance he came across the website of a Canadian collector who has set up his own oval office and bought the individual utensils on Kennedy's desk as replicas or reproduced as close to the originals as possible. (www.jfkdeskcanada.com) and that became his immediate passion.



While searching for the JFK telephone (left) and lamp (right), Peter came in contact with John R. White from Knoxville, Tennessee. He too has a passion for everything that was on Kennedy's desk, although he prefers to use the desk that his parents gave him as a gift when he was young. (See photo, next page).



One problem of course is the fact that when the 'next model' telephone came out, the previous one was discontinued and any leftover stock by the manufacturers were reduced to the 'spare parts' level and the existing units were often discarded for newer phones. And after a period of years, the old ones disappear because the operating (telephone) systems have advanced.

Peter became very enthusiastic about this idea and from then on he began to research, especially for the telephone and the desk lamp (a Herculite Executive model). The Canadian collector's page and a page from the JFK Library (www.jfkpresidentsdesk.org) became his orientation aid and guide.



Peter Klages sitting at his Kennedy desk in his office.

In his search, he contacted yet another possible source:

www.phonecoinc.com from Galesville, Wisconsin which was recommended by the Canadian collector.

This company has been involved in the restoration and trading of old telephones for decades.

Among other things, they also provide equipment and props for many film productions and historical films.

After what seemed like endless emails and phone calls, a message finally came from Galesville:

Continued on Page 12...

The phone he had been looking for was found in a barn on private property.

The phone finally arrived at his home on March 8th. Peter is now looking for someone to convert this phone so it can be connected to the German telephone system and actually be put into operation. So far as the telephone and lamp, he has found that it is almost impossible to find an exact model that is 100% the same as those which President Kennedy had on his desk.

The similarities - in terms of appearance and function - of Klages' telephone comes extremely close to the original, but the search continues for a model of the "Hercolite" desk lamp. Peter has already received about 50 negative responses. But of course he doesn't think about giving up. Pictured below are the other



John R. White's Canadian Resolute Desk reproduction

views of Peter Klages' office.



Asked how he felt sitting behind his own Resolute Desk, Peter replied:

For me, my Kennedy room and the Resolute Desk in the office are something very special. I am here in the midst of things that I have accumulated from around the world over 45 years, and that means so much to me. I have a lot of unique items on my Resolute Desk, just like the original on JFK's desk more than 60 years ago in the Oval Office. Working at my Resolute Desk gives me a very special feeling of inspiration, creativity and happiness. Somehow you feel very close to John F. Kennedy and the 1960s. It is a special feeling that has a lot to do with satisfaction and happiness. My Kennedy office and the Resolute Desk are both a place of retreat and a creative workshop for me.

I have my "favorite piece" right behind my chair on the wall: a portrait of John F. Kennedy in oil from the 1960s. There are so many emotions and wonderful memories attached to this picture. The picture was offered to me by telephone in the early 80s, after a newspaper article on the 20th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's death, by an employee of the US embassy (I think from Cologne). We phoned several times, but the asking price was beyond my possibilities at the time, even though the portrait was well worth it. I told my father (now 83) about the phone call with the embassy. At some point the US ambassador (or employee) explained to me in one of the following phone calls that the picture was no longer available and was sold to a US citizen That was annoying and sad at the same time. On the following Christmas everything was cleared up when my father surprised me with this oil painting. What happened? Immediately after I told my father about the story surrounding this picture, he contacted the embassy, bought the picture himself and asked the people at the embassy to tell me that the picture had been sold elsewhere ... Since then, for 40 years now, this picture hangs with me and John F. Kennedy looks over me at my desk.



This JFK portrait is Peter's favorite item from his entire collection.

It hangs on the wall behind him in the page 11 photo.

