

Button collection recalls campaigns

United Press International
 KEENE, N.H. — Ronald Russell's campaign button board — plastered with some 600 tin mementos of political hopes — is becoming a routine stop on the first-in-the-nation presidential primary trail.

"They come from people who dribble through here over the course of the years," says Russell, gazing at the cluttered surface that reads like a crash course in political slogans.

In one corner there's a patriotic pitch from former Alabama Gov. George Wallace, requesting voters to "Stand up for America." In another there's "LBJ for the USA" that alternately flashes images of a grimaced Lyndon Johnson and a map of the lower 48 states.

"That's a double blinker," explains Russell. "You don't see

many of them anymore. They're so expensive."

Of all the candidates, Richard Nixon leads the list of contributors. His numerous buttons dot the board, spelling out his political resume.

On one side there's "Let's clean house with Ike and Dick." On another side is a "Nixon-Lodge" button shaped like a small egg and studded with pearls.

Some of the buttons represent special interest groups. Former Vice President Nelson Rockefeller has one pledging "Nurses for Nelson." Another button signifies support for former Vice President Spiro Agnew: "Write in Agnew."

During his 30 or so years of collecting buttons, Russell has met dozens of presidential hopefuls.

"It's literally been in the hundreds — serious and non-serious," he says. "The easiest to talk to, the most intelligent was Jimmy Carter — no ifs, ands or buts about it. He just softly related to you."

Russell admits he has a preference for Democrats. His wife, Pat, served several terms as a Democratic state representative and has held a number of tea parties for state and presidential candidates.

Hubert Humphrey stands out in Russell's estimation as "a real tactician," and he remembers Estes Kefauver as "an old smoothie."

Russell says he has had a life-long interest in politics but prefers to remain an observer.

A lot of his customers talk politics. Russell compares his shop to "a country store" where people drop by to chat and get the latest news. His board is open to all candidates and he says it has just kept growing over the last 30 years.

But he predicts there may be some changes in the next four years. He expects a full field of Republicans and Democrats in the 1988 presidential election — when it might be time to get a larger board.

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by Paul Dirmeyer

Cold, bleak times for Sioux, poorest of the nation's poor

United Press International
 PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION, S.D. — Killer winds whipped across the plains this winter as the mercury plunged as low as 47 below, but America's poorest of the poor survived, some by burning meager possessions for heat.

They are the Oglala Sioux, whose legends are of harsh winters and hard times.

Elders who recall the blizzard of 1949 once heard their own grandparents speak of the winter of 1890 when U.S. soldiers massacred 150 of the tribe, including 44 women and 18 children, at nearby Wounded Knee.

"I estimate unemployment on the reservation at 85 percent," said Joe American Horse, the tribal council president who in another time would be called a chief.

"The majority of those without jobs can make a better living staying on welfare and food stamps than by working," acknowledged the president. He explained that the \$3.35-an-hour minimum wage they might earn would be grievously eroded by the high cost of commuting to jobs, available only outside the reservation.

President Reagan was busily cutting the federal budget — and Indian programs — when American Horse took office almost two years ago with high hopes for his people.

Despite the budget cuts, American Horse told UPI after five months in his new job, "We are moving in the direction of providing a good life for the Oglala Sioux people."

Another hard year later, however, he acknowledged unemployment had climbed

another 13 percentage points and the reservation still is afflicted with rampant alcoholism and the kind of poverty that grinds men down.

American Horse lays much of the blame at the door of the White House.

"The Reagan administration cut out too many necessary programs and reduced funding for others that were needed," he said.

American Horse and some other Indian leaders were encouraged when Reagan vowed to reverse a century of unsuccessful federal supervision over reservations and instead encourage tribal self-government.

The plan includes efforts to lure private investment to the reservations to create jobs and reduce the need for federal funds. It calls for cutting funds for Indian programs this year to

\$2.3 billion — \$353 million under the 1983 budget.

Once a long-distance runner at the University of Nebraska, American Horse is returning again, this time for a second year term as the tribe's leader.

One of the former U.S. Marine's opponents will be a bright young lawyer he brought in as the tribe's executive director, Robert Fast Horse.

"I can't say we've accomplished much," Fast Horse bluntly. "We've failed to attract industry and jobs to the reservation."

Indians need federal help, he said, and they are getting it.

"We've had enough state and task forces to determine what we need," Fast Horse said. "We know what we need. We've the most studied and regulated people on the face of the earth."

Advisories issued throughout Midwest, Great Plains states

Snow and freezing rain fell Sunday throughout the Plains and parts of the Midwest, prompting travel advisories from the Dakotas to Michigan. Three people were killed in a three-car accident on an icy road in Lockport, Ill.

Snow was scattered Sunday over the lower Great Lakes, through the upper Ohio Valley and into northern Virginia. Snow also extended over central North Dakota, changing to rain in western North Dakota and South Dakota.

Traveler advisories were in effect for up to an inch of snow over the mountains of Maryland and Virginia.

Traveler advisories were posted over southeastern North Dakota and northeastern South Dakota for freezing rain changing to snow. Advisories were also in effect for west central and southwest Minnesota. Up to 4 inches of snow was expected Sunday night over the upper Midwest.

In Illinois, a three-car accident closed an icy Lockport

street for nearly seven hours early Sunday. Three people were killed and five others injured in the accident.

The victims were identified as Jackelyn Johnson, 29, of Lockport; Jay Hincks, 23, and Richard Brimer, 21, of Lemont.

The driver of one car, Randall Malak, 20, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. He was listed in fair condition at Silver Cross Hospital, and hit a second car carrying Johnson and Hincks. A third car then hit the second vehicle.

Idaho work crews monitoring the ice-choked Salmon and Lemhi rivers. The Lemhi flows through dikes in two places Saturday, flooding a section of Salmon that had already been evacuated.

About 350 people were forced from their homes last week as mountain snowing and precarious ice flows caused flooding. Authorities estimate flood damage at between \$1 and \$2.7 million.

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Customs man slain

Officer's killers sought

United Press International
 LANGTRY — Authorities continued their search Sunday for two additional suspects in the kidnapping and slaying of a U.S. Customs Service inspector who was hailed as an officer who died "defending our border."

One other suspect was jailed in the abduction and shooting death of Customs inspector Richard Latham and a fourth suspect fatally shot himself at a police roadblock Saturday.

Investigators alleged the four robbed a jewelry store in Ciudad Acuna, Mexico, just across the border from Del Rio and apparently abducted Latham Friday night while crossing into the United States.

Commissioner of Customs William Von Raab said Latham died performing an unheralded but critical job.

"Inspector Latham lost his life while quietly defending our border," the commissioner said in a statement issued in Washington.

Latham was last seen about 4:15 p.m. Friday on International Bridge in Del Rio. Witnesses said he was inspecting a car driven by four Mexican males who were coming from Mexico.

Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman David Wells said two troopers stopped a car carrying three men about 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Terrell County, 15 miles west of Langtry near the U.S.-Mexico border.

Wells said the driver, Benito Botello of Eagle Pass, got out of the car and was talking to officers when Jesus Ramirez, 26, of Mexico shot and killed himself.

Wells said Ramirez, killed by one gunshot to his temple, was sitting in the car and it had been determined if the shooting was intentional or accidental.

Latham's .357-caliber semi-revolver, a revolver that fired the fatal shot and a small bag of jewelry were found in Botello's car, Wells said.

Rafael Calderon, 27, of Mexico, was taken to jail in San Antonio, where Wells said he was being questioned by FBI agents.

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