



Chapter 11

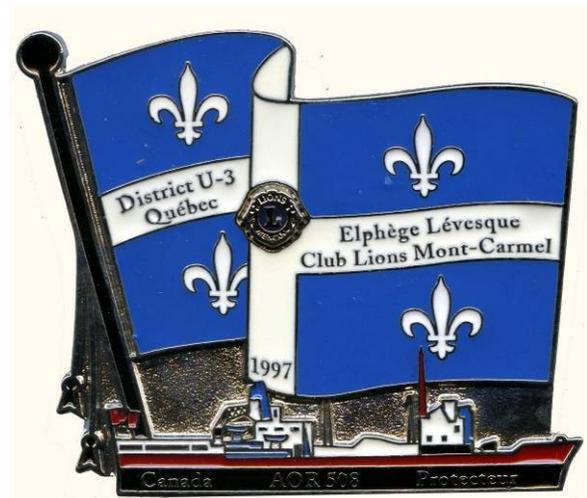
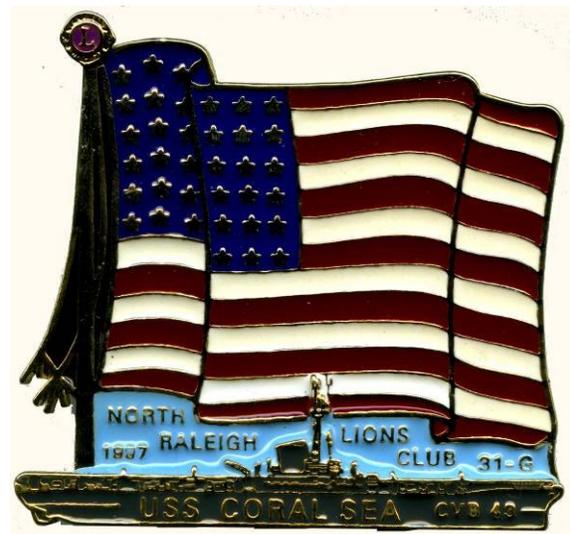
The Pin Series

It is probably safe to say that the introduction of series pins gave the hobby of Lions pin trading one of the biggest, if not *the* biggest, boost to date. The activity at the swaps have been greatly increased and the attendance has been enhanced as a result of traders' enthusiasm to collect all of the pins in each series. Many traders have issued pins for the first time and have found out just how much fun they can have when they have something other traders really want. As a side benefit, the exchange of these pins have no doubt created new trading relationships among the membership and that in itself has made the issue and collection of series pins so helpful to our hobby.

The Series - Special Topic Pins

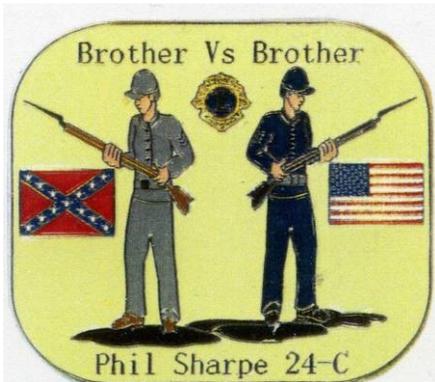
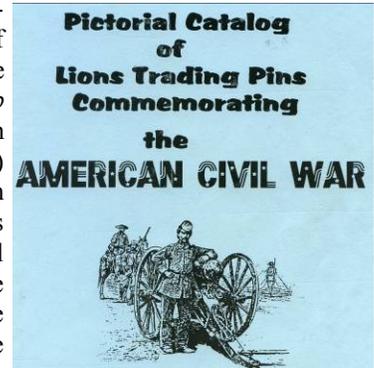
The Ship Pins

We can't say for certain who started this particular series, but the first time we heard about issuing a series of ship pins came from PDG **Jerry Romig** of Missouri. He offered that it would be nice "*if someone would sponsor the issuing of all the battleships named for the States in the U.S.A.*" To follow up on this idea, the Missouri pin traders did in fact issue a pin commemorating the U.S.S. Missouri, which was one of the most famous ships of World War II. Shortly thereafter, several other ship pins appeared on the trading market, and before long, the ship pins started coming off the production lines at a furious pace. Several factors doomed this series from the start, including the fact that there was no catalog or anything else that would tell the collectors what they had or what they needed to maintain themselves current. Also, the cost of most of the pins was in the \$5.00 dollar range, which made for a rather expensive collection. Another element that was a kiss of death was the introduction of "limited issues" that were available only to a small group of traders. In this same vain, the issue of different processes (gold, silver, bronze, pewter) turned so many off the series that it died a rather quick death. The one good thing that can be said for the ship pin series is that it gave "life" to the desire for future series that could be documented, as you will see later in this chapter. Below are a few samples of the ship pins in the ill-fated series.

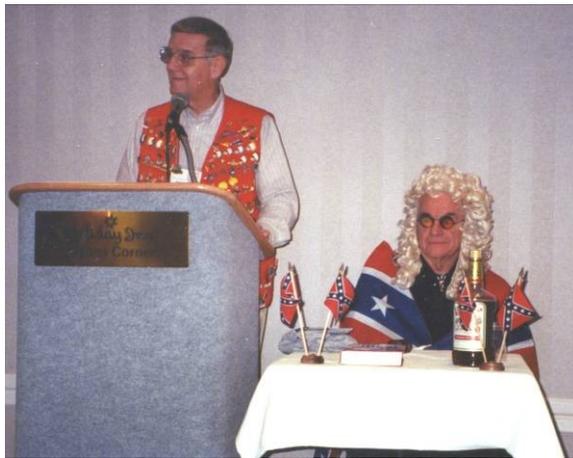


The American Civil War

Early in 1999, a rather strange thing happened that shaped and changed the “landscape” for pin trading. It seems as though both the pioneer pin trading clubs of Pennsylvania and Virginia have their mid-winter board meetings in the January-February time frame. A decision made independently and completely unknown to the respective organizations resulted in the initiation of a new pin series honoring the American Civil War. This dual decision was first revealed in a casual telephone conversation between PDG **Larry Shaull**, Pennsylvania, and PCC **Bill Smith**, Virginia. After these two traders got over their shock, it was agreed that possibly other U.S. States might want to join the fun. It wasn't long until there was a full blown “war” between the Union forces and the Confederate forces and the series lasted almost as long as the original war. The attention to the detail in many of the pins and the tremendous difference in the issues contributed significantly to the almost unprecedented interest in a single subject. Arguably, the major contributing factor in the success of the series could be traced to the introduction of a specialty color catalog of all of the pins produced. At the request of Lion **Bill Smith**, the *Pin Traders Club of Virginia* (PTCV) agreed to underwrite a portion of the cost of producing the catalog, which made it very attractive to those who decided to get into the “war”. Lion Bill became the editor and publisher of the catalog which, at its peak, claimed 142 subscribers. This doesn't sound like a large number, but in terms of catalog subscribers, it's huge. By the time the Civil War series ended, there were nine updates to the Catalog that contained 1,345 pins. Surprisingly, there were several members who managed to collect every single pin that was included in this massive and impressive color catalog. We are showing just a sampling of some of the pins, including the final set in the series entitled “*The End*”. This final issue was produced jointly as a puzzle pin by the originators of the series, the *Pin Traders Club of Pennsylvania* and the *Pin Traders Club of Virginia*, and was the first known joint pin by two pin trading clubs. In addition to the sampling of pins, we are including (next page) a few snapshots that were made during one of the PTCV pins swaps and the LITPC 25th Anniversary Party, as a means of illustrating the tremendous enthusiasm and fun that was had by many in our hobby. Attendance at both the Pennsylvania and Virginia annual swaps were greatly increased merely because so many traders wanted to witness all the shenanigans that occurred each year during this series. A good example of what we're talking about is the first-hand description provided elsewhere in this chapter by one of the “stars” of the series, Lion **Bill Hadden**, Virginia.



The Civil War Snapshots



PDG Charlie Kipps, President PTCV introduces Da Judge, a.k.a. Lion Bill Hadden, who will pass judgment on the Yankees brought before his Court of Southern Justice.



Colonel Bill Cooper Calls the Court to order and turns the proceedings over to Da Judge.



Stop flirting with Da Judge, Timmie, that's not going to help you one bit!!



Da Judge was very lenient, all the convicted Yankees received the honor of wearing the beautiful Confederate hats. That's (L-R) Larry Shaull and Tim McCaulley of Pennsylvania; Bob Libin of New York, and Jerry Craiglow, Ohio. Check out the pin on the next page that was made of these guys to commemorate this event.



Colonel Cooper and General Shaull shake hands to signify peace at last!!!



These Yankees appeared at the LITPC 25th Anniversary Party to capture the Catalog Maker, Bill Smith. On the left of Smith, we have Marcia and Larry Shaull, and on the right are Tim and Lana McCaulley.

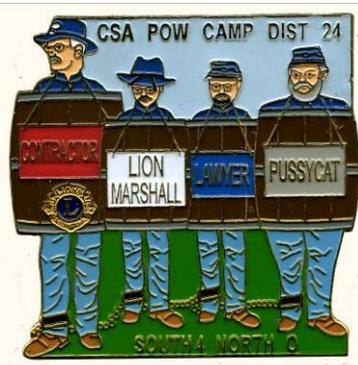
The Court of Blind Justice - The Real Story

by 'Da Judge, a.k.a. Lion William "Bill" Hadden, Virginia

If, as a Lion, you are interested in the hobby of pin collecting/trading, and are on this planet, you KNOW that there was a Civil War pin craze throughout the realm. This Craze is also recognized as referring to the War of Northern Aggression. Civil War pins became a part of our hobby with a lot of concern and second thoughts based on the Battleship fiasco.



The CRAZE took on an entirely different meaning during the 1998 Pin Swap held in enemy territory, a.k.a., York, PA. Apparently the unenlightened leadership of PA Pin Traders, aided and abetted by a few NY/OH renegades, thought they would "get the first shot in", they remembered Ft Sumpter, by embarrassing, humiliating, and in general disrespecting that well known gentleman of the South, Gen'l Lee, a.k.a. as Lion **Bill Smith**. As it turned out this was a dastardly deed because if you disrespect one of the South's own, you disrespect the entire South and it doesn't take much for the Bubbas to get riled up. This thrust into Gen'l Lee's gizzard started festering and ulcerated in August of 1998.



It was in the month of August 1998 that Gen'l Lee contacted 'Da Judge, by secure land-line, to inquire of 'Da Judge "What are we going to do about the Yankee's thrust into my gizzard while we were in York?" Since 'Da Judge had just come down off the mountain with the tablets under his arm, he advised Gen'l Lee to obtain some antibiotic for his gizzard ulceration and to let's move forward with the Court of Blind Justice and that the Court be convened at Tyson's Corner in November 1998 with the Court being presided over by the convicting judge, but totally impartial, who is not only kind and understanding but is most benevolent in his comments, remarks, and other acknowledgements to Northern renegades. Once this court was convened in Tyson's Corner in November 1998, the entire pin collecting world knew that justice would prevail, that there would be fair and totally unbiased decisions with all justice being dispensed with sugar coating, thereby providing a congenial and gentle atmosphere, totally absent of any ranker or bitterness, 'cause after all, this what is expected from all of those who visit the South and

experience that most wonderful Southern Hospitality.

In March 1999, the PA Mafia, with NY and OH accomplices, were very, very fragmented and disorganized to the extent that the Gentle People of the South were almost on the verge of interpreting this lack of animosity to perhaps be a "peace offering". In truth, there was not a great deal of battlefield smoke during the March '99 Pin Swap in enemy territory, a.k.a., York, PA.

In November 1999, 'Da Judge issued the famous *Blind Justice* pin, paid for with hard Confederate cash, not at the taxpayer expense. Because of the honesty, truth, and Southern integrity embodied in this pin, the pin was sought after and it became necessary to re-issue.



Would you believe that in March of 2000, while attending the PA Pin Swap in York, the PA Northern Mafia attempted to capture, waylay, and otherwise disrupt the Southern Gentle People by attempting to create a "lobby skirmish" in the York Holiday Inn. This was not to happen because the Southern Gentle People had acquired certain "commando types" who found a rear entrance to the Northern Mafia's dining room and proceeded to allow themselves in the rear entrance all while being carried out under the stealth of early morning darkness with the Southern Gentle People being commanded by Gen'l Lee (a.k.a., Lion **Bill Smith**). In order to guarantee complete security and tranquility in an atmosphere of peace and understanding, 'Da Judge felt forced to hire and obtain a personal bodyguard, Lion **Tom Walsh**, former Philadelphia police officer, who gave up his Yankee Citizenship in order to guard, protect, and care for 'Da Judge. When the Northern Mafia arrived in their breakfast room, it was very obvious that the Northern Mafia leadership (a.k.a., Lion **Larry Shaul**), along with his renegade forces, had been out-manuevered and he immediately gave the order to "advance to the rear". In Southernese, "advance to the rear" is referred to as retreating.



In November of 2000, in an effort to regain some credibility and in an attempt to enhance the Northern Mafia's image, a so-called "Skunk" pin was issued in an attempt to embarrass 'Da Judge by asking the gentle Judge "to reach into a box" in order to retrieve something. On doing so, 'Da Judge retrieved a long deceased, wrapped in fur Yankee soldier which apparently had been killed while in disguised as a skunk. At this point in the fracas, there was a lot of hooting and hollering by the PA Mafia with their OH and NY accomplices with the hooting and hollering attempting to overshadow and demean the fact that 'Da Judge had reconvened the Court for a parole violation of the Northern Mafia. The Court records clearly substantiate the fact that the skunk maneuver did not work because 'Da Judge still walks proudly and, in court language, this is known as *res ipse loquitur*.

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The Court of Blind Justice - The Real Story (Continued)

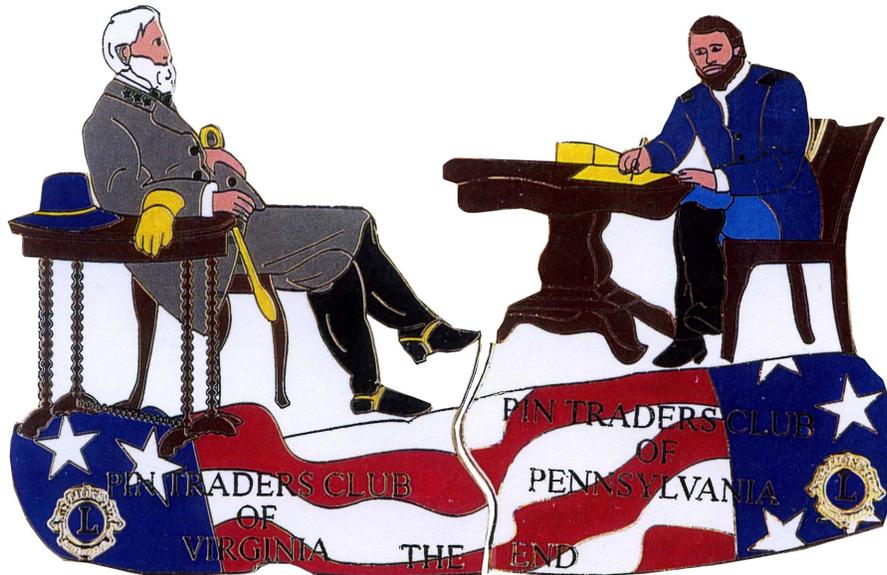


In March 2001, the Northern Mafia, with their accomplices, planned a “welcoming party” for the Southern Gentle People but somehow, somehow, the Southern Gentle People severed Yankee communication lines and the “welcoming party” did not happen. It was presumed by the Southern Gentle People that there might be some effort to capture and hostage ‘Da Judge so as a precautionary effort, ‘Da Judge showed up in his fine judicial garb as ‘Da Judge, a.k.a., “Flat Bush, a Moline, IL pin trader.” It is strongly believed that the Flat Bush tactic totally demoralized the Northern Mafia to the point that they perhaps will never recover.



As any honest to goodness, dyed in the wool pin trader will discern, PIN TRADING is a part of Lionism that is enjoyed by so many people. Contrary to the belief that pin traders are only pin traders, we submit that Pin Traders are good, good Lions and enjoy the hobby of pin trading/collecting because of being a Lion not in lieu of being a Lion. We do have fun!!! *Stare decisis.*

*Editor's note. Lion **Bill Hadden**, a member of the Brookville-Timberlake Lions Club, Lynchburg, Virginia, can take much credit for the tremendous success that we enjoyed in producing the hundreds and hundreds of pins during the Civil War Series. Lion Bill has never let his vision problem interfere in his Lionistic involvement. Although he is not able to see the pins that he and his wife, Lion **Jackie Hadden**, collect at the many pin swaps they attend, he certainly enjoys the wonderful fellowship that seems to be so unique in the pin trading community. Lion Jackie is depicted in the pin she issued as “St Jackie”. We know that she's a saint, just putting up with Lion Bill on a daily basis. Anyway, both Lion Bill Hadden and Lion Jackie Hadden are truly a credit to Lionism in general and to pin trading in particular.*



“The End” issued jointly by the Pin Traders Clubs of Virginia and Pennsylvania was the first puzzle pin issued by two pin trading clubs. The two pins were also the last pins issued in the Series.

The Native Indians

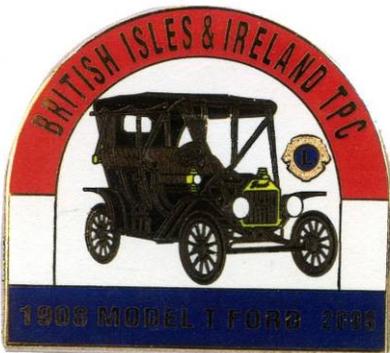
Immediately following the highly successful Civil War series, the *Pin Traders Club of Virginia (PTCV)* and the *Pin Traders Club of Pennsylvania (PTCP)* on July 1, 2002 once again jointly announced a new series honoring Native Indians. At the time it was announced, it was made clear that a maximum of two years seemed to be more than adequate time to complete the series. It was hoped that, since the series would include natives from areas other than North America, it would attract interest in all parts of the pin trading community. There was a lot of enthusiasm for this series, as evidenced by the tremendous number of pins that were issued. A total of 1,597 new Indian theme pins were introduced and documented in a color catalog issued on behalf of the PTCV by PCC **Bill Smith**. However, the fun and frolic of the previous Civil War series never did materialize. It never did catch on to any degree with the pin traders in Australia and Europe. There were a few pins issued by traders in those areas, but not many. When this series ended at the Virginia pin swap in November of 2005, it was agreed by all concerned that a "rest period" was needed from the frenzy that had become common during the two series. Here are a few samples from the Indian series.



The Motorized Land Transportation Series

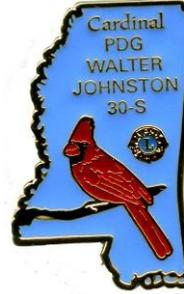
After a six-month hiatus, the pin traders of the world were greeted with a new series featuring motorized land transportation, or better known as the Transportation Series. This one started in the Spring of 2006 and concluded in June of 2008 at the LITPC Alternate Site Meeting in Jefferson City, Missouri. During this period, a total of 1,157 pins were produced and we saw a little bit greater participation by the traders in England and Australia. The imagination of the traders was probably better in the production of these pins because those who were involved often used cars and trucks that they were familiar with. Several produced replicas of cars that they have owned over the years and this obviously brought back many memories. One trader in particular warrants special mention because he had been introduced to the hobby about the time that this series was initiated. Usually, new traders are a little tentative about producing a pin with their name on it, but Lion **Bill Winters** of Staunton, Virginia, broke that mold. He was the proud producer of 29 pins in this series and that tied him for second place with Lion **Dan Ryan**, New York. The leader was Lion **Jimmy Thompson**, Texas, with 36 issues.

Here are a few of the pins from this successful series. The general feeling by all concerned was that the pin trading world needed at least a one-year rest before giving thought to another series. After seeing 4,099 pins being issued for the three series, everyone needed a chance to catch their breath.



The Bird Series

After almost a year of having no series, the pin trading community saw the introduction of a new one entitled “The Bird Series.” The beginning was rough, to say the least. First, there was an effort to start a little too soon and then it was discovered there was not enough interest, and then it was announced in the LITPC “*Trading Post*” that there would be a Bird Series. Next, the Pennsylvania Pin Traders Club announced unilaterally that they would run a Bird Series and the images would be shown on their website in lieu of issuing a catalog that had made the three prior series so successful. On top of that, the LITPC announced that it too would display any bird pins submitted to them and the images would likewise be shown on their web site. Some traders complained immediately that what appeared to be competing efforts would surely doom the series from the beginning. This proved to be true and the decision to forego a catalog in favor of showing the images on the website had a negative impact since a goodly number of members do not have or do not choose, for whatever reason, to avail themselves of the website. Here are a few of the images that appeared on the LITPC website.



Salute to the Armed Forces Series

In an effort to stir up some interest in a new series, the Pin Traders Club of Virginia (PTCV) took the lead in suggesting an LITPC-wide "Salute to the Armed Forces Series". It was announced that the Series would last for two years, beginning in June 2010. The idea was to give all who were interested an opportunity to honor their personal involvement in the armed forces or to honor their parents or other ancestors involvement. Almost immediately, it was obvious that there was going to be a more reasonable approach to issuing pins in the series and not the wholesale distribution that was so evident in the preceding ones. The membership generally favored a longer time frame than the original two-year duration. Consequently, the series was extended until June 2013, thus making this the longest running series to date. The quality of the pins has been, for the most part, far superior to those in all of the prior series. Here is an example of the pins.

