



Buttons

Made
Sold
Traded



By Judi McKinney

Not long after the AAM started lots of slogans began to become popular. Bev and Rocky Snyder wanted to be involved so we decided to finance the trips by making buttons. We could sell them for \$1.00, so we purchased 1000 and a machine to make them. The buttons cost us 25¢ to make, and we split 75¢. It soon became apparent that everyone wanted a button to wear. My kitchen table became our assembly line. We could do 125 to 175 in an hour depending on how many mistakes we made.



This bag belongs to Dolores Jones. Beneath the buttons it says "My Ag Bag."



Whenever one of us went on a tractorcade or to a AAM meeting or W.I.F.E. meeting, we took buttons. Rocky Snyder, Bob McKinney and Rob McKinney made trips to Hutchinson, Topeka, Great Bend, Larned, Greensburg, and Kinsley on tractors or driving a service truck. The buttons paid for the gas for the tractor and/or service truck.

When it was time to go to Washington, D.C., Bev wanted to go. We got busy and made 500 buttons. She was going to give some away and sell some. Little did we know

that the buttons would be such a big success. She called Rocky from the road and said, "I need more buttons." Rocky called me and said he'd be up with the kids because we needed to make buttons. Thank goodness, I had ordered another 1000 buttons. But how were we going to get them to Bev? We found someone who was going to meet up with the tractorcade in St. Louis, so I sent 1000.

When the tractors were on the Mall in Washington, D.C., Peggy Arensman went several times. The first time she went, I sent 3000 buttons with her. When she went to get on the airplane, they searched her bag. Some of the buttons weren't fastened on the back. Security made her sit down and go through the bag and pin all that weren't fastened. The next time we made sure they were all fastened before we sent them with her.

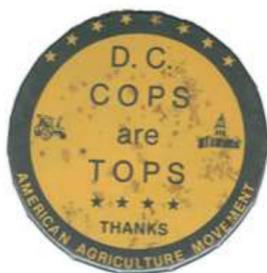
B-J Buttons made 10,000 buttons during the American Ag Movement. They paid for Bev staying in D.C. and gas for tractors and trucks on tractorcades. One of our buttons is in the Smithsonian Institute in the AAM display.



Bill "Dub:Stapleton's hat

"I took the bucket of buttons and sold 477. A lot of people – all tense and anxious, many looking tired."

Tractorcade diary of Beverly Snyder Anderson, February 3, 1979, Frederick, Maryland



"The UAW convention was in DC. We got to talking to those guys in the hotel, and they said, 'We want someone to come down in the morning and address our group.' Bud Bitner went and told them what we were up to. When he got done, the president of the UAW looked at Karen and said, 'This lady has a lot of caps and a lot of buttons that she is selling, and I want everybody in here not to leave until they are gone!'"

Darrel Miller

