



**LUCKY FIND**—Mrs. Darby, Los Angeles button collector, displays George Washington inaugural button of 1793 which she found in old sewing box in shop.

Times photo

## Washington Inaugural Button in Collection

In line with the reported high prices in attendance with the inauguration of President Truman, there is a Presidential inauguration button in Los Angeles that is worth \$250.

Owned by Mrs. Edith Darby, 3856 Brunswick Ave., the button is one worn at the second inauguration of George Washington in 1793.

The rare button, only one of its kind found to date, was found, tarnished and corroded beyond recognition, in an old sewing box full of nondescript buttons.

Mrs. Darby found the sewing box in an antique shop, and, being an avid collector of rare buttons, took the entire box home and with her husband, the Rev. William C. Darby, a retired Methodist minister, began cleaning and polishing the buttons.

Putting the finishing touches on the "dirtiest, most difficult to clean" button, Mrs. Darby recognized its slogan, "Long Live the President," and the 15 stars which at that time were used to designate the United States, since Vermont and Kentucky had joined the 13 original States.

Named "The Darby Pattern" in honor of its finder, the button has won prizes in all types of button competition, and two years ago won "best in show" at the Button Collectors Society show at the Clark Hotel.

"It's listed in the catalogue as worth \$25," said Mrs. Darby, "but I've refused several offers of \$250 for it. It is my most prized button and is registered with the Washington Inaugural Button Society."