

1855

2005



1952: World-famous photo taken in Flint

The most famous photo ever taken in Flint was one of Adlai E. Stevenson, the Democratic presidential candidate, sitting on a platform at City Hall with a hole in his shoe. The photo by William M. "Bill" Gallagher of The Flint Journal won the 1953 Pulitzer Prize in news photography. The hole-in-the-sole became a symbol of the Stevenson campaign. It was used all over the world. It inspired the manufacture of small campaign pins in the form of a shoe with a hole in it. Gallagher took the picture September 1, 1952, on

Labor Day. Gallagher said he was afraid Stevenson might be aware of the hole, "and if he thought I was going to photograph it, he might move his foot. So as easily and quickly as I could, I pre-focused my camera and set it on the floor and guessed at the alignment. It scares me a little when I think I could have missed that shot as easily as I got it. I'll probably never be so lucky again the rest of my life."

THE
FLINT **JOURNAL**

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Source: Centennial Picture History of Flint