

44. 1976

# Visit Becomes Reality After Hectic Night's Preparations

"President Ford and Sen. Bob Dole would like to stop in Russell Friday noon. If arrangements can be worked out," the telephone voice said about mid-afternoon Thursday. The caller from President Ford's staff added that an advance team would be in Russell in about three hours to look things over and make arrangements for the visit, if security, facilities, and time schedules can be worked out.

What wasn't said was that President Gerald Ford was dead set on visiting Russell "no matter how inconvenient it may be." He wanted to see Bob Dole's hometown with a new vice-presidential candidate, the first, incidentally, that an advance team would be in Russell in about three hours to look things over and make arrangements for the visit, if security, facilities, and time schedules can be worked out.

Russell's U.S. Sen. Bob Dole? Adding impact to the awesome situation is the fact that Dole only hours before was named vice-presidential candidate to run with Ford on the Republican ticket.

It was a great occasion. Flags were flying, bands played, schools were let out, and people came from miles around to see a rare sight, a United States President.

Setting for a gathering. Holding to an image from Ohio in which a similar session was held a few weeks ago, coordinator Andy Stern liked the looks of the courthouse square.

picnic setting without picnic food? The second series of meetings, got down to the basics — food — in the Blue Room of the Elks Lodge while officers and Secret Service agents went through details in a session in the Ramada Inn.

Washington by car failure. It was her assignment to introduce Bob Dole who, in turn, introduced President Ford.

day evening, pushed for a row of bleachers to give cameramen an elevation from which to shoot pictures.

Dole says we can have a picture on the Capitol steps, even with Kronkite, — if we win in November.

# The Russell Daily News

Hot tonight and Saturday. Low tonight 60s, high Saturday 90s.

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## Stage Is Set For Debates

PLAINS, Ga. (UPI) — Jimmy Carter, with the stage set for a debate with President Ford, said today the country has drifted under Ford and the main issue during the fall campaign will be "new leadership in the White House or no leadership and a continuation of drift."

## Bob Dole Day Proclaimed

Today was "Bob Dole Day" in Russell. The day was so proclaimed by Nancy Lane, acting mayor of Russell in the absence of Roger W. Williams, mayor.

## Last Presidential Visit Was in 1906

The last time a President of the United States visited Russell was 70 years ago on Wednesday, May 2, 1906, when President Theodore Roosevelt was cheered and welcomed by a crowd of about 5,000 Russell area residents, most of the population of Russell County at that time.



THE PRESIDENTIAL CARAVAN arrived at the Russell Courthouse shortly after noon today. The visit by President Gerald Ford and Sen. Bob Dole, vice-president nominee, opened the 1976 presidential campaign for the Republicans. Dole, a Russell native, was tabbed by Ford as his running mate Thursday at the GOP convention in Kansas City. Ford and Dole flew from Kansas City to Salina this morning and then boarded a helicopter which brought them to Russell. (UPI Photo)

## GOP Battle Starts in Russell

President Gerald R. Ford paid tribute to Russell's favorite son, U.S. Sen. Robert J. Dole, at noon today as he launched his Harry S. Truman-type "Give 'Em Hell Gerry" campaign as the Republican standard bearer for election to a four-year term of his own in the opening speech of the 1976 Republican presidential campaign on the Russell County Courthouse lawn before an estimated 10,000 persons.

Ford is the second incumbent President in Russell's history to visit the city during his tenure in office. Theodore Roosevelt is the only other President who has spoken here. He spoke from the Union Pacific Railroad depot to a crowd estimated at 5,000 persons in May, 1906.

States congressman for eight years, and a U.S. senator for almost eight years. In the House of Representatives he served on the Agriculture Committee and in the Senate he has served with honor and distinction on the Agriculture and Finance Committees. And he understands the relationship between local and state governments and the federal government in Washington, D.C."

lofty" and centered on the economy, and would not involve personal attacks on the Democratic nominees, presidential candidate Jimmy Carter and vice-presidential candidate Sen. Walter Mondale of Minnesota.

Asked to assess the state of the GOP entering the fall campaign, he said, "Super. That describes it. It's in great shape. It was the best speech I ever heard President Ford give," he said.

Grant said "it wouldn't have been possible for me to support either the President or Ron against the other. I'm just sorry they aren't on the same ticket."

"I'm a registered Republican, but I often vote for Democrats. John F. Kennedy was a friend. I knew Bobby Kennedy. Wonderful people."

## If I Have Had Success It Is Because of People

"If I have had success," U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, Russell, told a tightly packed crowd of over 3,000 on Russell's courthouse lawn at noon today, "it is because of the people here."

he like to be on the ticket. "I said yes — after I thought it over — about one second," Dole said.

here, Russell is certainly the nation's heartland," Dole stated.

## Grant Charms Conventioneers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI) — Cary Grant broke his rule against appearing on television to introduce Betty Ford to the Republican convention's closing session.

"I have warm feelings for both the Fords."

"I would have been just as happy to do the same thing for Nancy and Ron who are very old and dear friends."

## Ford-Dole Team to Stage 'Very Lofty' Campaign

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI) — Republican vice-presidential nominee Robert Dole promised today that he and President Ford would not engage in a "personal" campaign against the Carter-Mondale ticket this fall.

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# Russell Community Is Taken by Surprise

The folks in this wheat country town of 6,000 were surprised and elated over President Ford's choice of native son Bob Dole as his running mate.

"Bob worked in my father's drug store with my brother Chet and me in high school," Dawson said. "I don't think they could have picked a better man. I was elated."

ing. I know him from days when he played basketball for me. I'm prejudiced, of course, but I admire him."

while I thought Dole's selection would be nice, I felt it was beyond hope," Townsley said.

interest through the years. Dick Shields, an independent oil driller, said, "we're all just tickled pink."

both of Russell, were in Kansas City for the convention and heard the news on television in their motel room.

one of Bob's strongest points is that he is completely honest . . . and although at the time he was the national Republican chairman, he was not mixed up in Watergate."

Dole is, he is clean, and his wife is a big asset to the ticket, coming as she does from the South, North Carolina. Bob will help Ford with the farm vote.

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