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Russell "stunned, delighted" by Dole selection

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doubly prophetic. Bob Dole was born in 1923, the 2nd child and first son of Mr. and Mrs. Doran Dole, operators of the local creamery.
The elder Dole never lived to see his son's greatest triumph; he died of a massive heart attack last December while in Washington D. C., to attend the wedding of Bob Dole and Elizabeth Hansford, a beauty from North Carolina. Wednesday would have been Doran Dole's 76th birthday.

From relatives and longtime friends, a portrait emerges of young Bob Dole as a serious, hard-working youth — not above an occasional outing with his pals, but more concerned with the setting and attaining of goals. The word "determined" crops up again and again.

Bud Dawson is more qualified than most to hold forth on the senator's early years. He and Dole worked side by side at Dawson's drugstore on main street, while Dole was attending Russell high school.

The ornate mirrored back bar from the drugstore owned by Bud's father now occupies a place of honor in his gift shop. "I imagine Bob dispensed a lot of sodas over there," Dawson says. "He was a good kid. He never got into any trouble — had a lot of integrity," the Russell businessman recalls of the vice presidential candidate.

"He was serious, determined — but he had a lot of fun, too."

Dole was an outstanding athlete in high school and went on to play basketball for the legendary Phog Allen at the University of Kansas.

"He wasn't mammoth, as basketball players go today, but he made it because he wanted to," Dawson says. That determination again.

"He always had goals. He started out wanting to be a doctor, then he was wounded badly and found he couldn't do that, of course, so he went into law."

In 1945, Dole's right arm was shattered by machine gun bullets and shrapnel as a result of a foray against a German gun emplacement. The limb was pieced together again by a Chicago physician who reportedly advised Dole "to forget what he lost and concentrate on what he still had."

"I believe that, more than any other single thing, may have been what started Bob's career," said Russell Townsley, publisher of the Russell Daily News and a Dole supporter from the earliest days.

Dole's high school basketball coach, Harold Elliott, knew the young man was destined for great things.

"He had a certain attitude — more determination to win than you find in most athletes.

"There are those athletes who want to win but are unable to put out. That's where Bob stood out — his ability to put out. He played his best basketball against the toughest teams.

"He had a dry sense of humor, a wit that came in handy when we had a tough team to play. Some of the games we won that we had no business winning, it was Bob who pulled us through.

"He had that spark in high school that you just knew was going to carry him a long way."

Elliott admitted, however, that he didn't expect to hear Dole named as President Ford's running mate.

"I'd have to be honest and say I was surprised. I knew he was being considered, but the press hadn't given him a great deal of encouragement."

"Terrific ambition"

Mrs. Friesen remembers her nephew's "terrific ambition." He was always working — always had to work; they had 4 children and they came real close together.

"When he went to KU he had to wait on tables to pay his tuition. He worked all along. Somehow those kind always seem to turn out better."

As a youngster Dole helped the family finances with an after-school paper route. Later, he graduated to the drugstore job.

But there was time for fun, too.

Every Saturday afternoon, the 4 of them would go to the movies," Mrs. Friesen said. "And Bob spent a lot of weekends at his grandparents' farm. He loved the farm."

Dole enlisted in the Army following graduation from high school. There followed 2 years of combat duty climaxed by the skirmish in Italy's Po Valley and the next 39 months in a succession of military hospitals.

While still a law student at Topoka's Washburn university, Dole was elected to the Kansas Legislature in 1951. He came home to Russell in 1953 and served 4 terms as county attorney.

"Worked too hard"

Mrs. Dawson recalls those years: "When he was county attorney you could drive down main street at midnight and see the light burning in his office at the courthouse. Actually Bob worked too hard at times; I don't know how his health stood it."

The hard work stood Dole in good stead. Determined as always, he waged a successful 1959 campaign for Congress and served there until 1968 when he moved to the Senate side.

Dole's niece, Mrs. Nancy Poche, spent her 16th summer with the then congressman at his Fall's Church, Va., home.

"I took my first airplane ride with Uncle Bob. We flew from Salina to Kansas City and I got desperately, terribly airsick. We were supposed to fly from Kansas City to Washington, and we almost missed the plane because I was in the bathroom trying to clean up. I still remember Uncle Bob banging on the door, saying, 'Hurry up! We're going to miss the plane!'"

"Teased us"

The trademark Dole wit was already fully developed. "When he came home from work, he'd always bring us these huge, goopy, double-decker sundaes from the ice cream store, then he'd kid us about being fat."

Mrs. Poche, daughter of the Senator's brother, Kenny, a Russell oil contractor, is a beautician at a local salon. She was giving a patron a permanent when she heard the exciting news.

Her customer was under the hair dryer at the time. "I ran out but told her I'd be right back. I was a little late — about 15 minutes, but no harm was done; she turned out beautifully.

"I told her she was going to go down in history even if she didn't know it."

Other family members were equally



Where Dole worked

Bud Dawson, Russell, stands in front of "back bar" from old Dawson Drugstore, where young Bob Dole dispensed a soda or 2.

Bar now is in Russell Flower and Gift shop, operated by the Dawsons. (Journal Photos)

"He's run some close elections here. Just a couple of weeks ago, I ran an editorial that said, basically, 'Bob Dole's a pretty good guy.' The next day, I got a letter from a guy in town taking rather strong exception to that statement."

Dole's divorce from his first wife, Phyllis — who is now married to Sylvan Grove Mayor Lon Buzick — caused "concern" among many of his constituents, Townsley says. "But they were concerned the way you'd be concerned about a friend. Sort of a 'What went wrong' feeling."

"As for any bitterness or resentment, no," Townsley said.

Political foes Dole may have, but City Manager Boyd believes, "You can't dislike the guy as a man — not after you get to know him."

Adds Townsley: "There are people who don't agree with him, but even among his enemies there's a lot of hometown pride. Sort of a feeling of 'he may be an SOB, but he's our SOB.'"

And Elliott, Dole's high school coach, thinks he knows what the man from Russell can do for the GOP ticket.

"He's sharp enough and can say some things that will cause Carter to wriggle a bit."

thrilled. From his hotel in Kansas City, Kenny Dole said: "If Bob Dole can talk to the whole nation for 45 minutes, there wouldn't be any votes for anyone else. He is well-qualified — the best man for the job. But, of course, I'm prejudiced."

Dole said his mother, Mrs. Bina Dole, was happy but "a little upset" because her late husband could not share in the family's joy.

"You know, it hasn't been too long since we lost him."

Kenny's ex-wife, Mrs. Dottie Dole, said their divorce hasn't affected her support for her former brother-in-law. "Why should it? He's a great guy — honest, patriotic — he always sticks by his guns. He's quite a guy."

Bob Dole is nothing if not outspoken. It is a quality that has won him many friends and made him not a few enemies.

Townsley, the local publisher, agreed not all Russell residents shared in the euphoria over the senator's surprise selection.

RUSSELL (HNS) — For a few hours Friday, motorists on Interstate 70 had clear sailing.

Not that the Kansas Highway Patrol wasn't living up to its motto "protect and serve."

The patrol's protection and service were geared not to the highway, however, but to President Gerald Ford and vice-presidential nominee Sen. Bob Dole, visiting Dole's hometown here for a noon barbecue.

A patrol spokesman said every officer from Hays and officers from Wakeeney, Oakley, Phillipsburg and Norton were joined by troopers from Salina and Wichita in providing security for the presidential visit.

Even the patrol's aircraft division sent personnel to Russell.

And acting Russell Police Chief Bob Tyler wasn't taking any chances.

100 attend reception

Over 100 Salinans attended a brief reception for Sen. and Mrs. Dole Friday afternoon at the Hilton Inn.

Dole enlivened the gathering with a new selection of quips about his nomination as vice-president.

"I don't know how the decision was made," he said. "Maybe they drew straws or went alphabetically."

"But I have to believe President Ford knows the Republicans cannot be elected without the farm states. People like President Ford. They know him as an honest and decent person. But people want something done about prices on the farm."

"Perhaps I can make some contribution in that area."

The Doles were presented a silver plate with the inscription: "To Senator Dole, congratulations and best wishes from the heart of your state and the hearts of your supporters. 20 August 1976."

The Senator and Mrs. Dole returned to Washington by air later Friday. He is to appear on the CBS television interview show "Face the Nation" Sunday.



Bob and brother

Bob (left) and Kenny Dole strike brotherly pose in this photo from the family album of the Doles' aunt, Mrs. Gladys Friesen.

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Othello, too

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Big crowd greets Ford, Dole here

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terminal ramp, shaking outstretched hands and saying "Hello", "Thank you", "Hi".

The weather was balmy and the wind, usually blasting along at the airport, was light. The crowd waited in a light-hearted mood.

Giving official greetings was a group of Salinans led by Mayor Jerry Simpson. Commissioners Jack Weisgerber, Keith Duckers and Bill Usher were there along with their wives. City Manager Norris Olson and Mrs. Olson joined the greeting party on the ramp. S. Dean Evans and his son, Sam, also were there.

The press plane — a PanAm charter which had left New York City at 3 am — preceded the President's plane, but the newsmen didn't stay for the arrival of Air Force One. They boarded 4 Continental buses for the drive to Russell, hoping to arrive before the helicopters. Pool reporters accompanied the President.

The 2 helicopters — Ford and Dole and Dole's wife, Elizabeth, and his mother boarded one helicopter. Others in the party boarded a 2nd copter.

Mrs. Betty Ford and other members of the Ford family weren't with the President.

President Ford is to return to Salina Friday afternoon, board Air Force One and fly to Vail, Colo., to begin a vacation. The captain of the press plane said his charter was to land at Grand Junction.

As the forward door of Air Force One opened, a ground crew from Frontier Airlines moved a ramp into position. President Ford was the first to appear, waving and smiling. He was joined by Dole and Mrs. Dole. They stood at the top of the ramp for about a minute waving to the cheering crowd.

The size of the crowd was a surprise. Salina didn't learn of the visit until late Thursday and there was no time for planning beyond security precautions by a platoon of police, deputies, and the always-present Secret Service men.

Almost all of the crowd was held behind the ramp fence, but some managed to reach a roped press area where local and area reporters were held.

Pool reporters with the President were not restrained and accompanied Ford and Dole through the greeting line.

Dole, of course, recognized many old Salina friends. He's campaigned here through all his years in Congress. He and Mrs. Dole were to greet other friends at a Friday afternoon reception at the Salina Hilton Inn.

The 2 helicopters, operated by US Marine crews in dress uniform less the blue jacket, moved down the ramp a few feet and were airborne at 11:25 am. The crowd dispersed, many saying: "He shook my hand! He shook my hand!"

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Dole weeps at hero's welcome

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ented crowd with a promise to increase the estate tax exemption from \$60,000 to "at least \$150,000."

And he promised to "find a way" to give tax relief to the middle income people of this country who have been short-changed over the years."

But the biggest ovation was reserved for Ford's final vow: "This administration will never have an embargo."

It was a reference to the embargo on foreign grain sales instituted by the Ford administration last year and which has angered farmers, who believe the move hurt grain prices.

Sharing the platform with Ford and Dole were Gov. Robert Bennett, who introduced Dole; Lt. Gov. Shelby Smith, Sen. James Pearson, Rep. Keith Sebelius, Dole's wife, Elizabeth, brother, Kenny; mother, Bina, and daughter, Robin.

Following the 40-minute program, Ford and Dole went into the crowd to shake hands and greet friends. They made their way to the southeast corner of the courthouse grounds where a hot dog feast had been prepared by the Russell Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors.

So the Ford-Dole campaign started. Dole told of the President's first charge to him Thursday after his selection as the vice-presidential candidate: "He said: 'We're not going to wait to start our campaign. We start tomorrow in the heartland of America. And that's why we're here today.'"