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EDITORIAL

A big day for Russell

"BOMBHELL HITS RUSSELL"

That was the glaring headline on the first page of the Russell Daily News last Thursday.

"FORD PICKS BOB DOLE" was the wording of the 8-column screamer across that page. This headline surmounted a 4-column picture of the handsome United States Senator, who has brought lasting fame to the town in which he was born and where he was reared.

Practically the entire issue of that paper was devoted to stories about Dole. The News must have had some foreknowledge of this important happening to get all that copy written and set after the first news of Ford's singling-out came that morning.

One of the stories told how the news media overran the town after the Dole announcement. There to learn about Dole and his home town and state and the reactions of people of the community about his selection were members of the staffs of the three major television networks, NBC, CBS and ABC, members of Channel 12, Wichita, KAYS-TV and Radio from Hays, and The Wichita Eagle & Beacon.

The ABC crew was the first to land at the Russell Municipal Airport. Included in the ABC group were Roger Peterson, correspondent from Washington, D.C., Dave Green, producer from Chicago, Sid Dobish, cameraman from New York City, Jack Gray, soundman, and Dick Scanlin, electrician.

The ABC crew, which arrived at 1:02 p.m. in a Cessna Citation jet, had earlier been dispatched to Tennessee to visit people in the home town community of U.S. Sen. Howard Baker. Baker, who gave the keynote speech Tuesday night at the convention, was a favorite to be picked by Ford for the No. 2 spot on the party's ticket.

Members of the national television networks and the Wichita newspaper, after their arrival, visited with leaders of the community and inspected Dole's home town. They took pictures of the Dole family residence at 11th and Maple Sts. and Dole's former residence on N. Lincoln St., and shots of community life here.

They also attended an interview conducted at the Community Room of The Russell State Bank where

they taped responses of local citizens and their reactions to Dole's selection.

The News also carried an interview story with comment from former Sen. Frank Carlson, now living in retirement at Concordia. He was just as surprised at the news as other Kansans. "Of course, he served in the House while I was in the Senate, so we have worked together for Kansas for a long time," he said.

Robert Dole was born in Russell on July 22, 1923, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Doran R. Dole. As a boy he carried papers for the News and was reported to be an outstanding athlete.

But the best was yet to come. Along about noon, President Ford and his nominee, Bob Dole, took off from Washington in Air Force One — bound for Dole's home town. Because of no long runways at Russell, the plane had to land at Salina, where a 20-minute joy fest was held with thousands of people.

Then the party took off in helicopters for Russell, 70 miles away — for the town where Dole was born, where he graduated from high school, where he held his first public office and which he left finally to serve in Congress.

The town turned itself inside and out in paying honors to this home town boy and friend. Mr. Dole — candidate for Vice President of the United States — was overcome by emotion when he recalled the kindness of the people of his home community — and shed a few tears which will not be held against him.

For once, President Ford had to play second fiddle while Dole was given the welcome of welcomes by his home town people.

The two dignitaries ate hamburgers with the town folk, and rollicked with joy at the honor which had descended on them. Later, the two celebrities returned to Salina, where the President embarked for a few days' rest at Vail, Colorado. Mr. Dole went back to Washington to begin his campaign for the highest office that ever has come within his reach.

This was the greatest day in the history of Russell — even overshadowing that day in the early 1930s when the Lucky Seven struck oil there — and opened the vast western Kansas fields.

Bob Dole and battles lost — 'Mac the Knife' remembers

By JOHN McCORMALLY
For Harris Newspapers

It is a little awesome to stand there staring at the bulletin on the news ticker and realize that someone you've known and fought with a long time has suddenly catapulted up near the pinnacle of power.

That's how I felt when I learned, to my total surprise, that Ford had picked Sen. Bob Dole for vice president.

Bob and I go back a long way. I can't remember exactly when we first took public notice of one another; but whenever it was, the purpose was to disagree, and we've been doing that ever since.

OUR CAREERS HAD A somewhat similar start. A couple of Kansas poor boys who got shot up in the war, came out of our respective hospitals to finish our educations and both end up in the Kansas legislature. But the differences quickly became more pronounced than any similarities.

I served as a Democrat in the 1947 Kansas House of Representatives; Bob, whose wounds had been worse, and hospitalized longer, got going a little later and was a Republican member of the 1951 house.

After the one term, I tried to go straight by switching to journalism. Bob made politics a career. As an editorialist, I became tagged as a liberal, socialist, radical or red, depending on who

was handing out the compliments. As a politician, Bob became defined as a conservative, reactionary or right-winger, depending on who was describing him.

THE SPARSELY POPULATED western half of Kansas was divided into two congressional districts, the 5th in the southern portion and the 6th in the northern. Bob lived in the 6th where he served as county attorney after his legislative term. In 1960, when the old Republican congressman retired, Bob easily succeeded him in Washington.

In 1962 a reapportionment put the 5th and 6th together, consigning the entire west half of the state into a new 1st District — a vast domain of 58 counties, 50,000 square miles and 500,000 people. That pitted incumbent Dole, from the old 6th, against a Democratic incumbent in the old 5th.

IT WAS A GREAT RACE and, looking back, you can see it now as the watershed of Dole's career. Had he been defeated then, he might never have been heard from again, outside of Russell County. But a victory would carry him on toward what even in those early days he was confiding was a secret ambition — to be president of the United States.

By that time, I was editor of the largest newspaper in the district and the battle was joined. My publisher, a liberal Republican of the Eisenhower persuasion, was opposed to Dole as too conservative, and the paper went all out against him.

renaming my paper, The Hutchinson News, "The Prairie Pravda."

In 1963, when I went to Africa to teach journalism in a State Department project, that was proof enough for Bob of the awful "aid to the Reds" Kennedy foreign policy. One of his editor friends told his readers they could at least hope the Mau Mau would eat me, and Bob devoted a flattering amount of time in the summer to denouncing me in his news releases.

My wife would enclose the clipping in her letters and I toiling for my country 6,000 miles away, would bang my head against the palm trees in frustration, because I couldn't get at him.

AFTER THAT 1962 ELECTION I had written, "Dole proved himself a potent vote-getter and is now a power to be reckoned with in Kansas politics." But my crystal ball was too cloudy to have let me guess, in the wildest flight of imagination that, in just 14 years, he'd be his party's nominee for vice president.

When I watched him in his glory last week, I remembered what William Allen White had written of Franklin Roosevelt after his triumph over London: "We who hate your gaudy gals salute you!" (Scratch that word "hate" because that never applied to my long losing battle with Bob).

And so, it is into the breach again, old Foe. As a Carter-Mondale supporter, I've one more chance to beat Bob Dole. I couldn't be more delighted. But I have to confess my track record isn't very encouraging.

Dole himself described the campaign as "a clear-cut issue of conservatism and liberalism." The Arizona GOP chairman came up to help him, declaring that Dole was "the kind of congressman Sen. Barry Goldwater would be proud to have in his camp."

WE PROTESTED THAT DOLE was a reactionary on such things as aid to education and health. We deplored his labeling that year's foreign aid bill (which Eisenhower was helping Kennedy get passed) as an "aid to the Reds" bill. We thought we ought to try unloading some of our surplus wheat on Russia and China if they wanted to buy it. Dole wanted no truck with the Commies. (How times have changed!).

Well Bob whopped us good. That was the campaign in which he gave me the name "Mac the Knife." When I hear him described now as a "slashing campaigner," I have to recall that it used to cut both ways in the good old days out in Kansas.

In fact, Bob whopped me good in every fight we were in, and I've got to warn Jimmy Carter that when Bob Dole lets fly at you, you know you've been slashed. But it was enjoyable because Bob was one politician who didn't rely on "spokesmen" to do his dirty work for him. He let you have it himself. He never thought it beneath the dignity of the public official to write letters to the editor, and he used to skin my hide.

BOB NEVER CAME RIGHT out and called me a Communist. But the whole district delighted in his

Dole to 'bridge gap'

WASHINGTON (UPI) — GOP vice presidential candidate Robert Dole said Sunday he can "bridge the gap" between those who supported President Ford and those who supported Ronald Reagan. He said he could also appeal to the non Republican majority.

"If I bring anything to the ticket, it's close identification with agriculture, small towns, rural America," the Kansas senator said, "and that would appeal in those areas to Democrats and independents."

Appearing on CBS' Face the Nation, Dole said his selection as a running mate for fellow midwesterner Ford shows that "Before you

broaden a base you have to shore it up."

Referring to the GOP convention that nominated Ford and Dole, he said, "It was sort of a brightening thing in a way because there was so much genuine enthusiasm. How do you bridge the gap between those who were strongly for Ford and those who felt strongly about Reagan? And I would guess that those who had a part in the selection process said, 'Well maybe Bob Dole could be the bridge.' I would hope that it was a positive thing, not a negative thing — who will do us the least harm? But I understand that may be a consideration."

Dole, a Methodist, planned to attend church at the Episcop

copal National Cathedral in Washington because, a spokesman said, it was the only church offering afternoon services. He then planned to return to his home in the Watergate apartments.

The vice presidential nominee will be briefed on national security matters Monday by CIA Director George Bush and by other officials on economic and domestic policy Tuesday.

Dole's tentative schedule for his first week of campaigning called for him to speak to the American Legion convention in Seattle and then join Ford in Vail, Colo.

In the television interview, Dole said the GOP has a chance to win California "depending on the degree of Governor Reagan's efforts" and that he is optimistic that the 30-point gap in the polls between the Democratic and Republican ticket recorded a few weeks ago will soon drop to about 14 or 15 per cent.

Asked about his reputation as a sharp-tongued partisan campaigner, Dole said, "I've been aggressive in a partisan sense now and then selectively. But one criticism I've had of the Republican Party (is) we need more spokesmen out on the front lines. ... I found myself there even

more often than I wanted to be in an effort to defend an administration position or to take on a Democrat position, not the candidate.

"In fact, I can recall back in another administration (Nixon's) when I was sent a lot of things that they wanted me to repeat and I refused to repeat because they were personal attacks on Senator Muskie and Senator Kennedy and others."

FORD'S AIDES SAY DOLE WILL ASSUME BIG CAMPAIGN ROLE

He Will Press Candidacy on the Road While President Stays in White House

STRATEGY TALKS TODAY
G.O.P. Will Concentrate on Major Industrial States and Vital Farm Areas

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON

Appeared in The New York Times
VAIL, Colo., Aug. 22—President Ford will reportedly attempt to retain the White House by spending most of his time in Washington as the nation's leader, by demonstrating knowledge of government in debates with Jimmy Carter and by focusing the Republican Presidential campaign on the major industrial states.

"In the final analysis," a senior official of the Ford campaign said here today, the contest between the President and his Democratic challenger "will come down to whether people trust Ford or Carter more to represent their values in Washington for the next four years."

Mr. Ford, recuperating from an exhausting week in which he and his Vice-Presidential running mate, Senator Robert J. Dole of Kansas, were nominated by the Republican National Convention, attended an unusual "Yellowstone Christmas" church service today and went golfing at his mountain-side retreat.

Strategy Is Outlined

Aides who began assembling for a series of campaign meetings scheduled to start here tomorrow said that the basic outline of a come-from-behind strategy against Mr. Carter and Senator Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota would consist of the following elements:

1. A "less is more" format, in which the President will travel only sporadically while Senator Dole wages the Republican campaign on the road. Mr. Ford will concentrate instead on high-visibility White House activities — including frequent news conferences, pointed messages to the opposition in Congress and possibly a call for a special session — meant to stress his presence in the Executive Mansion.

2. A major state electoral strategy, with the limited campaign resources targeted on the industrial and agricultural heartland and spreading west to California and east to New Jersey, New York, Texas and the Deep South, while not formally written off, are to be given modest attention and resources.

3. An attempt to re-create the tone and style of the President's acceptance speech to the Republican convention, which Mr. Ford's aides regarded as his most performance as an orator in his 28 years in politics. Because the acceptance speech required weeks of preparation and rehearsal, Mr. Ford will give relatively few campaign addresses and will try to reach a broad television audience with them.