



Tish and Larry Rogers, owners of a Russell drug store, discuss plans for Bob Dole's formal announcement that he is running for president.

Russell ready for Dole to enter race

By LINDA MOWERY-DENNING
Great Plains Editor

RUSSELL — Bob Dole stepped to the microphone and looked out over the crowd gathered before the Russell Municipal Building.

"I guess I know most people in this audience on a first-name basis," Dole said.

The applause was immediate. Sen. Robert Joseph Dole had come home. Home to Russell — the town of about 5,450 that has sustained him through his victories and failures. Home to Russell — to announce his candidacy for the Republican nomination for president of the United States.

"There ought to be at least one place for every person where he or she is accepted with unjudging love and strengthened and reassured by it, and for me that place is here," Dole said.

"I was born and healed in this place by my townsmen and I began my public career here. And whenever I have set out on a new path, I have come back here to begin. No failure has ever been so hurtful that this place could not ease the pain. And no success has ever been so great that its satisfaction exceeded the satisfaction of being a part of the people of Russell."

Eight years have passed since Dole spoke those words on a sunny morning in May. The financial troubles that sidetracked his first run for the presidency several months after it started apparently have passed with them.

Eight years also has brought other changes. "This time he has the backing, the finances and the national exposure he didn't have in 1979," said Russ Townsley, publisher of the Russell Daily News and a Dole friend for more than three decades.

So, on Nov. 9 — on the brick street outside the

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now own the Dawson Drug Store and a vacant building next door that will serve as the command post for the big event.

"You don't realize what a massive project this is until you get into it," Tish Rogers said. "But you talk about economic development ... There's a lot of pride here, too. Bob Dole came from a family with a lot of values. There are these wonderful stories about his mother selling sewing machines. This is not a preppy (George) Bush story. This is a hometown story."

A story friends and relatives have told often in the past few weeks. So often, in fact, some fear they have about run out of things to say.

Townsley has entertained reporters from New York, Washington, Los Angeles and other large cities.

Last Friday, as a photographer took a picture of Larry and Tish Rogers behind the lunch counter of their drug store, a customer walked through the front door, took one look and started to laugh.

"Not again," he said.

Several blocks from Dawson's, in the Dole Building, Kenneth Dole, the senator's younger brother, also has entertained his share of visitors.

He shares memories of the young Bob Dole, about standing at their father Doran's creamery and selling Cloverline salve to the farmers, or passing out sale bills for 50 cents a day.

"You kind of lived as a family in those days, because there wasn't anything else to do," Kenneth Dole said. "I was pretty young, but I remember the dust storms, the hard times."

"I'm sure that had something to do with the outcome of everybody. We never went hungry. We always had

something to wear, something to eat, but we sure ate a lot of pancakes because they didn't cost much."

Kenneth Dole also remembers the hard times during World War II, when his brother's life and right shoulder were shattered by enemy fire.

Bob Dole was in combat in Italy as a second lieutenant and platoon leader when shell fragments riddled his body. During hospitalization, which stretched to 39 months, he dropped from 194 pounds to 122. Doctors gave Dole little chance to live.

Kenneth Dole recalls his brother swearing to make up what he considered the lost years of his life if he was ever released from the hospital.

"I'd say he has made it up many times over," Kenneth Dole said.

Those who have known Bob Dole over the years are not surprised by his success in politics. They say he has always been ambitious, a man driven to succeed.

Don Woelk, who managed Dole's first campaign for Congress in 1960, talks of days that never seemed to end.

"We'd get into the motel at 4:30 a.m. or 5 a.m. and he'd be up for breakfast at 6 a.m. and going strong," said Woelk, who owns a jewelry store in downtown Russell.

"I was having a difficult time. I was on my knees, but at least I'd take the weekend off. Bob kept going."

Because of Dole's political life, staging the Nov. 9 announcement event is nothing new to residents here.

In addition to the 1979 announcement, there was 1976, when President Gerald Ford and Dole, his just named vice-presidential running mate, decided to kick off their campaign in Russell.

The town had less than 24 hours' notice to prepare for the visit.

This time the planning has been

Dole picks office head:

Ron Wineinger, an agricultural aide to Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., has been named state director for the senator's offices in Kansas.

Wineinger is a native of Marion. He replaces Steve Coen, who resigned to accept a job with the Wesley Foundation in Wichita.

Robert Dole Betting on a certainty

WASHINGTON DC

A Republican will win the White House next year, and he will be that Republican. Senator Bob Dole is quietly, and not implausibly, confident on both counts.

He has the profile of the president whom many Americans, disillusioned after 11 years of two successive Washington outsiders, now say they want: a competent wide-awake Washingtonian who knows his way about and will get things done. He does not say with any precision what he will get done, but manages, more through his personality than his words, to convey that it will all be refreshingly intelligent. Though Mr. Dole's record is soundly conservative, and he fights a partisan battle in the Senate, on the campaign trail he is chasing independent and

Democratic voters. He is a traditionalist, a Republican, a conservative.

Mr. Dole, 64, has been in Congress for 27 years, and a Republican leader in the Senate since 1964. He is a shrewd legislator, known for the evenness, and temperance, of his wit. His rather presidential bids were lamentable in 1976, when he was President Gerald Ford's running-mate, he allowed himself to say some fairly unreflexive things about the Democrats. Nowadays his standard comment on that episode is, "I went for the popular. My own."

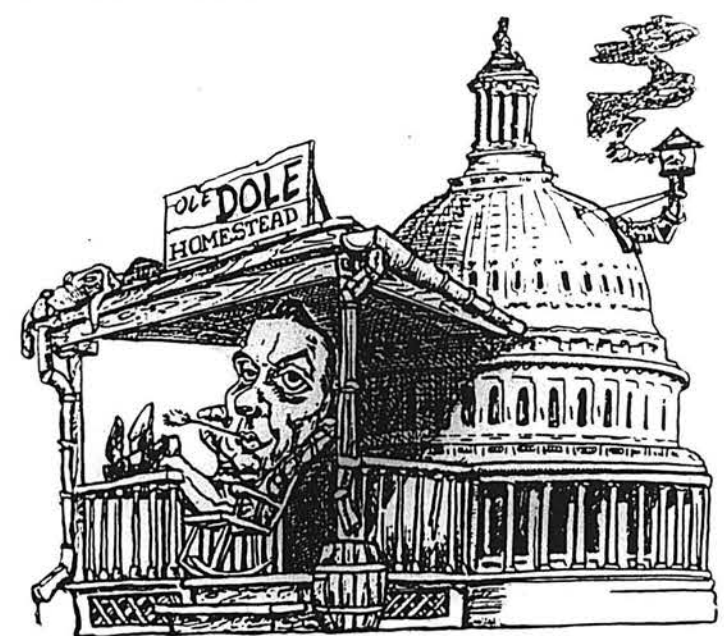
In 1980 he ran a brief mismanaged campaign for president. "Nobody knew I was running, except me," he now says. These days Mr. Dole has the political maturity to turn his one-liners mainly on himself.

He slips a bit when he speaks of his main rival in the Republican primaries, Vice-President George Bush, who formally announced his candidacy on October 12th. Mr. Bush and Mr. Dole are far ahead of the rest of the field, with Mr. Bush still a good way in front. Mr. Dole thinks he is catching up. In money, he is. Contributions from a few Democrats as well as from many Republicans, are now coming in fast and he expects to have raised about \$14m, or roughly the same amount as Mr. Bush, by the end of the year.

The senator can be a mean taskmaster and his organization is still spotty compared with the vice-president's smooth, old-established machine. But Mr. William Brock, who performed wonders in pulling the Republican party together after Watergate, is to resign his job as labour secretary in order to head the Dole campaign. And Mr. Dole has already been helped, immeasurably, by his wife's decision to leave her job as secretary of transport to campaign full-time for him, particularly in the South. Mrs. Elizabeth Dole, who comes from North Carolina, is a splendid campaigner who, as her husband says, "speaks southern fluently."

Mr. Dole's campaign is built along lines that compare his own qualities, implicitly and sometimes explicitly, with those of the vice-president: independence, earthiness, toughness and leadership are all stressed. Though Mr. Dole, as Senate minority leader, often has to defend administration policies—which sometimes leads to him talking with two voices—he has been much more successful than Mr. Bush in detaching himself from the White House and establishing his own identity.

Everyone knows who Bob Dole is and where he comes from, boasts the senator; he does not have to remind people that Mr. Bush hovers, a mite uncomfortably, between his native east coast and his adopted Texas. Mr. Dole, as anyone who listens to a couple of his speeches knows all too well, comes from the folksy small town of Russell in Kansas, where his father went to work in overalls for 42 years, his mother gave sewing



taking tough decisions. He can talk to farmers about his work on the agricultural committee; he tells environmentalists that he will have a word on their behalf with the energy secretary. By contrast, says Mr. Dole, dropping crocodile sympathy, the vice-president is confined to a largely ceremonial role, out of the loop of active political life. Mr. Bush disputes this description of his functions.

The senator assures deficit-worriers that America's debts are his priority; he does not store up trouble for himself by saying, precisely, what he will do about them. But his record is not bad. As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee in 1981, he pushed through a large increase in taxes; as majority leader in 1985, he got the Senate votes for a bill, later killed by the White House, that froze cost-of-living adjustments to social security (pensions). He does not believe that

supports looser gun control, and tighter abortion control, but he has worked hard to extend voting rights, provide food stamps and help the disabled. He supports the administration on foreign policy, but not unquestioningly. Recently, however, he has done and said some things (in favour of the South African-supported rebels in Mozambique, for instance) that suggest he is not above pandering to the right.

Now, at least in his campaign talk, he has swung in a more liberal direction. Wherever he is, he speaks of the underdog, of Americans who have no share in prosperity, of the need to help the unfortunate to the first rung of the ladder. Honourably, he does not confine his message to populist speeches in the farm states. New Hampshire Republicans, dissecting lobbyists at a picnic in an Elks Lodge outside Dover, listened fairly stonily when he advised them, "If you

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don't eat, don't worry about farmers," and told tales of his grandparents who were on welfare in the 1950s, not because they were lazy but because they were poor.

He gives the message a certain punch by disclosing, in all his speeches, his bleaker past: the wounds he suffered in Italy in the second world war that led to 39 months in hospital and the permanent uselessness of his right arm (out campaigning, he holds a pen in his crippled hand to prevent people from shaking it); how the people of Russell, Kansas, helped the depressed young athlete to put himself together again. These disclosures are a new departure for the senator, long urged on him by advisers trying to obliterate memories of his blacker side.

Mr. Dole will officially announce his candidacy on November 9th. He is under pressure to use the opportunity to wrap his thoughts into a theme-package, but may resist. The pendulum, he argues, has swung against presidents with miracle-working visions. "Everybody wants your vision," says Mr. Dole, "so that they can jump on it and say, 'But that's not the vision I want.'"

He offers common sense as a better philosophy.

When the young Bob Dole returned from the war, both the Democrats and the Republicans wanted him in local politics. His parents were Democrats, and he was tempted. But the Republicans won him by telling him that there were twice as many Republicans in the county as Democrats. "I then made a great philosophical judgment," says the mature Senator Dole, putting ideology in its place.

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