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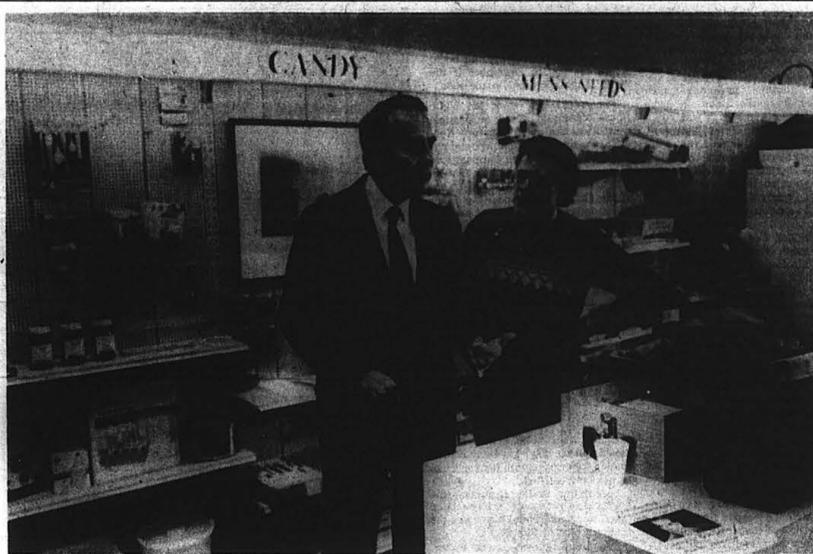
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Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., left, on Sunday talked with Larry Rogers, owner of Rogers O' Dawson Drugs, where Dole worked as a soda

jerk as a youngster in Russell. Earlier Sunday, Dole made milkshakes. He is in his hometown to kick off his presidential campaign.

Dole, hometown in high spirits

By MARTIN HAWVER
Capital Journal staff writer

RUSSELL — It was vintage Bob Dole, wisecracking but carefully remembering his friends during an announcement-evening soiree at the Russell Veterans of Foreign Wars Post on Sunday night. Dole attended a pre-announcement party that brought to Russell about 2,000 avid Republicans, including many from Topeka. Dole told the crowd he "feels good about our prospects." "In 1979 when I came here to announce my candidacy for president, about 50 people showed up who claimed to be related to me," he said. "Today, 250 showed up, all

claiming to be related to me. There were some I'd never seen before, and I got eight resumes." Dole quipped to a jam-packed audience at the post home on Russell's east side. Dole was buoyant and jubilant.

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pointing out friends in the crowd and calling them by name. He said he was enthusiastic about the support he's getting from Kansas. "I tell people in New Mexico, California or wherever just to pick up the phone and call anyone in Kansas," he said.



Lucynda Raben applied "88 Dole 88" to the teeth of her father, Cy Raben. The Rabens are Russell dentists.

"Whoever they get — Republican, Democrat or independent — will tell them Bob Dole is a hard worker." After speaking to the group upstairs at the post home, the state's senior senator wandered into the basement, where a reception was held for the press corps that descended Sunday on Russell.

Dole joked to reporters that he has a "vision" but that he wouldn't reveal it Sunday night for fear it would keep them awake. He also said, in a more serious vein, that he didn't think he needed to decide whether to resign his Senate minority leader's post until after the Iowa caucuses.

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Campaign '88

Questions ride Dole's success

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole is launching his campaign for the 1988 presidential nomination as the clear runner-up to Vice President George Bush in the polls, but critics and supporters say he faces lingering questions about personal style and political contradictions. As Dole embarks on his campaign from his hometown of Russell, there is general agreement on the impressive steps he has taken in the last 12 months as he has emerged from the pack of Bush's pursuers. "I think we're ready to go one on one" with Bush, said Bill Lacy, a key campaign aide. "The thing that pleases me most is organizationally, we've made dramatic strides," he

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said, referring to strong fund-raising and paid political operatives in 35 states.

But others say that won't be enough. "Dole has a marvelous sense of humor, but it's like a two-edged sword," said one campaign aide, speaking on condition of anonymity. This aide said Dole must be careful to use his humor on himself and not use it for "undermining and deprecating an opponent."

In public he has accomplished that thus far but in private, Dole is still capable of cutting, acidic remarks. According to one aide, when Dole was musing about how to answer a debate question on which portraits he would hang in the White House, he said he would put up pictures of the men he has defeated in past campaigns.

Aides to other candidates say Dole must decide whether he will run as a conservative or a moderate. "I don't think that he can appear to be a man without a compass," says Pete Teeley, a spokesman for Bush. Whatever his challenges, not even

Dole's sharpest critics dispute his success in the past 12 months. When Bush's standing dropped last fall and winter because of the Iran-Contra affair, it was Dole who rushed to fill the void. As a result, he stands even in the polls in Iowa, site of critical early caucuses, and is closer to Bush in nationwide surveys than he is to the rest of the field.

While some of his success resulted from Bush's misfortunes, Dole also is seen as a far stronger candidate than he was as his party's 1976 vice presidential nominee or as an also-ran in the race for the 1980 GOP presidential nomination.

By speaking openly of his poverty-shadowed youth and his triumph over disabling World War II wounds, Dole has allowed a more appealing side of his personality to emerge. Before, there was only an image as a tough, caustic political infighter.

The Dole who thought wrongly that he could run his 1980 campaign out of his own back pocket has changed, as well.

He won the allegiance of former Labor Secretary William E. Brock, who quit the Cabinet to become Dole's full-time campaign manager last week. As a longtime acquaintance of Dole and a successful, established former member of Congress in his own right, Brock is expected to be able to deal as an equal with the candidate — something other aides aren't able to do.

"He's agreed that he manages the candidate, and I manage the campaign," says Brock. Brock is expected to implement several changes, and was said to be stunned when he found out there was virtually no written strategy for winning the nomination.

"It is clear that they have addressed some of their more serious problems by bringing in Bill Brock and by having a stronger field operation than they did six months ago," says John Buckley, spokesman for Rep. Jack Kemp of New York, one of Dole's presidential campaign rivals.



Workers installed platforms Sunday upon which the press will stand when Dole announces his campaign this morning in Russell.

Elizabeth Dole, the senator's wife, quit as Secretary of Transportation and is drawing rave reviews as a campaigner for her husband in her native South and in Iowa.

Dole also has built an impressive fund-raising apparatus, raising \$10.4 million thus far. He has won endorsements from several senators, including those in some key, early primary and caucus states, and has a paid staff of roughly 150 aides in 35 different states.

A cadre of well-known and well-respected advisers, including Richard Wirthlin, President Reagan's pollster, have joined the Dole campaign.

And by keeping his position as Senate Republican leader, Dole commands exposure on network television that is the envy of other presidential contenders and retains several highly paid staff assistants beyond what average lawmakers are entitled to.

Dole wins high praise from his GOP Senate colleagues for juggling both jobs, but some aides are hoping he will relinquish his leadership job soon to permit more time for the

campaign. Dole indicated earlier to aides that he hoped to hold both jobs until after the March 8 string of primaries known as Super Tuesday.

Dole has campaigned as the Republican who is most "electable," the GOP candidate who is best able to appeal to Democratic ticket splitters. In Brock's phrase, the Kansas Republicans is a "compassionate conservative."

But some conservatives are deeply suspicious of Dole, believing he favors a tax increase, and aides to Kemp and Bush said the Kansas senator will have to make a choice before long.

"He is the single most successful politician in my lifetime at presenting two conflicting images at the same time," said Kemp spokesman Buckley.

He said that on issues such as abortion and anti-communism, "you can't fault him."

But, says Buckley, "His obsession with the deficit leads him inevitably to a tax increase and when that occurs, the fault line in the party will be elevated."

ter the Iowa caucuses. Dole also said he sees the Republican nomination derby as a two-horse race between him and Vice President George Bush.

Much of Kansas state government turned out at the party at the VFW on Sunday night, including House Speaker Jim Braden, R-Clay Center, and Insurance Commissioner Fletcher Bell, a Lawrence Republican.

Activities in Russell on Sunday varied from Main Street to molar.

The Main Street activity was the erection of the speakers' platform at the corner of 8th and Main, where Dole, alongside his wife, Elizabeth, will formally kick off his presidential campaign today.

Dole, who was in town early enough to attend Sunday services at United Methodist Church here, was lured to Rogers O' Dawson Drugs, the pharmacy where he worked as a soda jerk as a youngster.

Dole produced three milk shakes that store owner Larry Rogers said were both "delicious" and "commercial." Commercial in drugstore parlance means "I could make a profit on those shakes," Rogers said.

Dole spent much of Sunday house-hopping, meeting privately with boyhood friends.

While Main Street was bustling, Lucynda Raben and her father, Cy Raben, both Russell dentists, were sprucing up their smiles for this morning.

The Rabens used a technique called composite laminate veneer to apply "88 Dole 88" on their front teeth. The Rabens, who are hoping to form a Dentists for Dole organization, said the tooth design was Lucynda Raben's idea.

"We used this procedure for cosmetic reasons on some patients, and since we have the technology it seemed like a natural," Lucynda Raben said.

It took her about an hour to apply the message to her father's teeth, then she took the chair and her father applied the lettering to her teeth.