

199-1995

# Dole to start run in Topeka

By GENE SMITH  
The Capital-Journal

WASHINGTON — Bob Dole is breaking with tradition on his third run for the presidency, perhaps because this is a different type of campaign season.

For starters, he will formally announce his candidacy April 10 in Topeka. Then he will board his airplane and begin a week-long tour of state capitals across the nation. He will end the marathon schedule of appearances with a "welcome home" announcement in Russell, his hometown, where he began all his previous campaigns.

In fact, the campaign already has started — the earliest beginning in history for the flock of Republican hopefuls. Several

## Presidential aspirant trails 2 others in fund-raising, but early poll shows Kansan is candidate to beat.

are actively raising money. Some — including former Vice President Dan Quayle — already have dropped out because they decided the funding support wasn't there.

It is considered crucial for serious candidates to amass a big war chest early this campaign, because several of the nation's most populous (and thus most influential) states have scheduled their primaries early this time.

These early conventions give the edge to the immediate front-runners. A month into the season, the pack is likely to be thinned to not more than three.

Texas Sen. Phil Gramm, who has the biggest campaign fund, has put out the word it will take \$20 million to take part in the 1996 GOP primary.

Former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander, who has the second biggest fund, hasn't argued. Indeed, the media are being encouraged to consider 1995 an artificial primary season — a "money primary."

Both Gramm and Alexander know a Federal Election Commission report on campaign financing early next month will show them far in the lead and Dole — the Senate majority leader — well back.

### ANALYSIS

# Dole's hometown happy

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Dole during military service in World War II. Dole was wounded on April 14, 1945, in Italy while serving as a platoon leader with the Army's 10th Mountain Division.

Dole subsequently spent part of a 39-month convalescence at the Topeka Veterans Administration hospital and later was graduated from Washburn University School of Law. Dole also began his legislative career in Topeka, after Russell County voters sent him to the Kansas Legislature in 1950.

Dole may not be the only presidential candidate in 1996 to claim Russell as a hometown.

Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter also grew up in Russell during the 1940s. Although Specter has yet to declare for the presidency, he is considered a likely Republican candidate — which doesn't surprise folks in Russell.

"We assume that all towns," Banker said, "have at least two presidential candidates."

was chosen as the site for Dole to throw his hat into the ring for the 1996 GOP presidential nomination.

"It makes some sense for Bob to announce in Topeka," Banker said. "That's where he recovered from his war wounds, went to law school and kind of got his political career cranked up."

The Banker family has operated Banker's Family Clothing Store in downtown Russell for 113 years.

"We're always happy to have our senator come home," said City Manager Judy Sargent. "But it's a good idea for him to make his presentation in Topeka, the state capital. He represents the entire state."

The April 10 presidential announcement is closely tied to an important anniversary for

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# Dole will make it official in Topeka

WASHINGTON — Breaking from personal tradition, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole plans to announce formally his third bid for the presidency April 10 in Topeka, campaign officials said Friday.

The date is a few days before the 50th anniversary of the Kansas Republican's wounding in Italy during World War II, when his right shoulder was shattered by German fire.

But Dole, who noted the actual anniversary falls on Good Friday this year, decided to make the official announcement in Topeka during the same week and then visit Des Moines, Iowa; Concord, N.H.; New York; and his hometown of Russell.

"The first day's going to be reining in government, returning power to

the states," Dole told The Kansas City Star in a story Friday. "It's a good idea to go to state capitals to make that point."

Iowa is also the site of the Republican caucuses, and New Hampshire holds the nation's first presidential primary in February 1996.

Dole launched his 1980 and 1988 presidential campaigns, as well as his 1976 bid for vice president on a ticket with President Ford, from Russell. But town Mayor Neal Farmer said he didn't think the people there would feel slighted this time.

"If he feels like he needs to start his presidential campaign in Topeka, that's not going to be a slap in anyone's face here," Farmer said. "He needs to do what's best for his campaign, and the people of Russell will



Sen. Bob Dole Kansas senator will formally announce his presidential campaign on April 10 in Topeka.

# Dole to kick off campaign in Topeka

## Presidential bid to commence in April

By LINDA MOWERY-DENNING  
The Salina Journal

Sen. Bob Dole hopes to visit his hometown of Russell in April, but the formal announcement that he is a candidate for president will be made in Topeka.

Gloria Nelson of Russell said her brother has many links to the Kansas capital. He spent 39 months there in hospitals recovering from war injuries he suffered April 14, 1945, in Italy.

He also attended law school in Topeka and served in the Kansas House of Representatives.



Bob Dole will announce his presidential campaign in Topeka on April 10.

"The home people shouldn't be upset. He'll always come back to Russell," Nelson said.

Russell has served as the backdrop for three previous races for national office. In 1976, Dole and Gerald Ford visited the town of about 5,000 after capturing the nomination for vice president and president at the Republican National Convention. Dole also began his 1980 and 1988 presidential campaigns from Russell.

A spokeswoman for the Bob Dole for President Exploratory Committee said campaign officials still are discussing plans for the announcement.

Efforts Friday focused on a three-day tour this weekend to New Hampshire. Dole plans to hold nine town meetings with Republican voters today and Sunday.

New Hampshire holds the nation's first presidential primary in February 1996.

A tentative schedule calls for

Dole to stop in Des Moines, Iowa; Concord, N.H.; New York City and Russell in the week following his formal announcement in April.

Gloria Nelson predicted Russell residents would be in Topeka to support Dole, but she said her brother also was working hard to get to Russell to see family and friends.

"We haven't seen him since I don't know when," she said.

The parade of journalists wanting to write about the Kansas senator and his Russell roots has started in earnest, Nelson said.

She said the mood appears more upbeat than in 1988, when Dole's bid for the White House was buried in the New Hampshire primary by George Bush.

"She said there is a feeling that Bob Dole's time has come.

"We just all feel he has a pretty good chance. I don't know why — we just do. And Kansas will play an important part," she said.

Allen Evans, publisher and general manager of Russell's two newspapers, said citizens in Dole's hometown wondered if the official announcement might not be made elsewhere this time.

"I think a lot of us thought he might take this route and do something different," Evans said Friday. "As long as he comes to Russell, we can live with that."

"It's going to be exciting. It's going to be good for Kansas and for Russell."

# Dole strong early leader in N.H.

Sen. Bob Dole is the clear leader among possible Republican presidential candidates, according to a Globe poll of potential New Hampshire GOP primary voters.

But the poll also shows that while so far there is no single defining issue, an opening exists for a moderate who favors abortion rights.

The possible entry of retired Gen. Colin Powell could shake the race up immediately, according to the survey, with Powell grabbing 20 percent of support and leaping ahead of all contenders except Dole. Without Powell in the race, no other contender comes close to Dole at this early point.

The poll, conducted among Republican and independent voters last week, comes as nine prospective candidates gather today in Manchester to address 1,400 GOP activists in an event that in effect launches the 1996 presidential campaign.

The gathering comes at a time when the New Hampshire electorate is less angry than four years ago, and looking for a tried-and-true candidate, someone with experience, the poll showed.

"They aren't interested in a great shakeup from an outsider and, in fact they are pretty happy with the way things are in their state

and much happier than they were four years ago," said Gerry Chervinsky of KRC Communications Research, which conducted the poll from Feb. 13 to 15 for The Globe.

If the primary were held now — and if Powell were not in the running — Dole would capture 42 percent, Massachusetts Gov. William Weld would get 12 percent, conservative commentator Patrick Buchanan would get 9 percent, Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas would get 7 percent, former Education Secretary Lamar Alexander and Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania would each get 3 percent, and Gov. Pete Wilson of California would get 2 percent.

# A year before primary, candidates crowd New Hampshire

## GOP front-runner Dole visits nine town hall meetings in three days

By JOHN KING  
Associated Press

KEENE, N.H. — Bob Dole has been here before and knows New Hampshire activists take their presidential primary pretty seriously, often demanding to meet the candidates several times before choosing sides. Still, he's got a short cut in mind.

"I'm willing to meet each of you three times today," the Senate majority leader joked Saturday as he opened his campaign in the state that derailed his last White House bid in 1988.

"I would just say on this first day of what is going to be a long journey, I'd appreciate your help," Dole told an overflow crowd of more than 300 people at the Keene library. And so it began.

A year before the first votes are cast, the Republicans who would be president are busy raising money. Several have already paid

multiple visits to the kickoff states of Iowa and New Hampshire.

But not until this weekend had Dole, the GOP's front-runner, hit the trail as a certain candidate. So his arrival, and a Sunday night state party dinner that is bringing more than a half-dozen GOP contenders together for the first time, served as the ceremonial start of the 1996 campaign in New Hampshire.

Iowa and New Hampshire are the small states where voter-by-voter contact matters, where an unknown like Jimmy Carter can make a name for himself or where a big name like Lyndon Johnson or Dole can stagger.

Mindful of 1988, when he never recovered from losing New Hampshire to George Bush, Dole served notice Saturday he will not be outworked in this state. Dole was scrambling to nine town hall meetings over three days, managed an impromptu diner stop Saturday morning and took out a Sunday newspaper ad touting commitments from more than 20,000 New Hampshire Republicans.

"We're trying to make a statement here," Dole said in an interview. "This is for real."

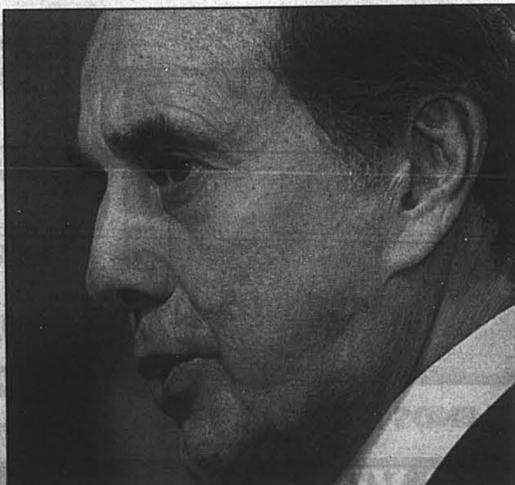
Dole's greeting reinforced the perception he is the man to beat in the GOP field, as have early polls showing him well ahead of everyone else here. But he hardly had the place to himself.

Patrick Buchanan called together veterans of his "Buchanan's Brigade," looking to prove the 37 percent he tallied here in a primary challenge to Bush three years ago was no fluke. And Buchanan huddled with state Christian Coalition leaders, hoping his outspoken opposition to abortion rights would help him with religious conservative voters.

Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar was campaigning, too, hoping to convince New Hampshire voters to defy the campaign professionals and launch him as a contender.

He told reporters he had "great respect" for his rivals but, citing his experience as Indianapolis mayor prior to the Senate, said, "I think I have better qualifications."

Due to join them over the weekend: GOP Sens. Phil Gramm of Texas and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander and Rep. Robert Dornan, a conservative firebrand from California.



Sen. Bob Dole addresses a meeting at the Keene, N.H., town library Saturday. Early polls show him ahead of all other GOP presidential contenders in New Hampshire.