

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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YELTSIN HISTORY

FIRST VISIT OF A RUSSIAN HEAD OF STATE TO KANSAS WAS IN 1872

WASHINGTON - Kansas Senator Bob Dole today made the following comments on his weekly radio conference call with Kansas reporters:

YELTSIN'S VISIT TO WICHITA WILL BE HISTORIC . . . IN FACT, HE WILL BE THE HIGHEST RANKING FOREIGN HEAD OF STATE TO COME TO KANSAS IN THE 20TH CENTURY.

ACCORDING TO THE KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, HISTORY WILL BE MADE WHEN THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENT STEPS ON KANSAS SOIL. BUT HE WON'T BE THE FIRST RUSSIAN RULER TO VISIT, HOWEVER. 120 YEARS AGO, IN 1872, ALEXIS, THE GRAND DUKE OF RUSSIA, JOURNEYED TO KANSAS TO GO BUFFALO HUNTING. HE TRAVELLED ACROSS OUR STATE BY TRAIN AND WOULD STOP TO HUNT WHENEVER HE SPOTTED A BIG BUFFALO HERD.

THE RUSSIAN GRAND DUKE HUNTED NEAR SHARON SPRINGS OUT WEST AND ALSO NEAR FORT HAYS. HE HAD A COUPLE OF PRETTY FAMOUS GUIDES, TOO . . . GENERAL GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER AND BUFFALO BILL CODY. THE GRAND DUKE OF RUSSIA FINISHED HIS KANSAS TRIP IN TOPEKA, WHERE HE WAS GREETED BY SEVERAL THOUSAND KANSANS.

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