

9. 1968



Rocky in Kansas

Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York (center), campaigning for Republican candidates, strolls across lawn to speaker's platform at rally in suburban Mission Hills, Kas.

With him are Rick Harman, GOP candidate for governor and Rep. Robert Dole, Republican candidate for senator.

SALINA JRNL 10-6-68

TOPEKA DAILY CAPITOL 10-18-68



Richard Nixon, Republican presidential nominee, concentrated while listening to his introduction at a Future Farmers of America convention meeting in Kansas City Wednesday morning. From left to right were Nixon, his wife, Pat; Republican nominee for U.S. senator from Kansas, Bob Dole; and retiring Kansas Senator Frank Carlson.

KE STAR 12-15-68

Dole Family Modest in New Prestige

By Betsy Transou
(A member of The Star's staff)
WASHINGTON — When Phyllis Dole was married 20 years ago she was not sure her husband would ever be able to hold a job.
Next month she'll see her husband, a hard-headed Kansas, sworn in as a United States senator. Robert J. Dole is a determined young man who is alive today because he would not allow war injuries to overcome him.
Dole had planned to be a physician, but dropped his pre-med course at the University of Kansas to join the Army in World War II.
He was gravely injured leading a platoon on an Italian mountain and spent the next three years in hospitals attempting to recover from paralysis of three limbs, the loss of a kidney and lung damage.
One thing was certain: The former college athlete would never be the same.
"It's hard to describe," Dole attempted. "You are wounded and a hero. You come home and soon you are up and around."
"Only, suddenly, you are not up and around. You feel sorry for yourself, but you finally select a prime interest other than basketball. I was lucky enough to select something that did not need my hand."
Dole was not "lucky" in that selection. He was forced to choose a field other than medicine because he never would have full use of his right hand.
"If I hadn't been injured I'd probably be a doctor somewhere
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in Kansas crying about Medicare," Dole, who is 45, said.
Now he's a strong conservative in one of the best situations on Capitol Hill because he's one of the new young Republicans. President-elect Richard M. Nixon will depend on the next 4 years.
Dole is a close friend of Robert Ellsworth, a Kansas Republican who is one of Nixon's top advisers. This gives Dole a good line into the President's office, though he is unassuming about it.
"I suppose our social life will pick up some," he commented. The Doles attended few White House events in the last eight years while he was a Kansas representative during the Democratic administration.
Phyllis Dole is interested in attending more White House events. She'd like to tell her grandchildren about it, she says.
But she's unassuming about how celebrated she and her husband will become. She's making her inaugural gown out of a coral-colored material she found on sale. Mrs. Dole isn't worried about her dress clashing with Mrs. Nixon's because she figures she won't be so close to the first lady that anyone will notice.
PHYLIS DOLE, 43, has been with her husband virtually since the moment he was released from the hospital. They met at an officers' club dance at Percy Jones hospital in Minneapolis where he was a patient and she a new occupational therapist from Concord, N. H. They danced, dated and were married three months later.
For the next several years she buttoned his shirts, sliced his meat, tied his shoe laces and typed his exams, to name a few chores.
"I wrote the Kansas bar exams while Bob dictated," she explained. "I kept misspelling defendant. Bob finally ordered me to write 'defen' instead."
Mrs. Dole said she is the only person to write the 3-day examinations without ever having had a law course.
The senator-elect now requires little help with his daily routine and can be dressed and out of the house each morning in less than 20 minutes.
"Bob Dole usually carries a pen in his right hand. When meeting people he usually has a coat over his right arm and shakes



A NEW HOBBY, PAINTING, has recently been undertaken by Mrs. Phyllis Dole, and is overseen here by Robin and Robert Dole, two of her subjects.

hands as unobtrusively as possible with his left.
"Then people often look at you as if you were a clod and didn't know which hand to shake with," Dole said.
Although Dole says he is accustomed to his one-arm handicap, he admits that he pushes himself.
"Every day I feel that I have to prove something," he said. "Since I can't hang a picture I have to do something else. You have to prove to yourself and everyone else that 'I can do as much as you.'"
He said he drives his 7-man staff too hard and often wonders why they stay with him. Others agree.

His staff and family say Dole is not a tyrant, but even-tempered and determined. He rarely discusses an issue with either his family or staff, but gathers the information and makes a firm decision.
BOB AND Phyllis Dole and their only child, Robin Carol, 14, live in Falls Church, Va., 20 minutes from Washington. They have lived in the area since Dole was elected to Congress in 1969, though they keep a permanent address in their home town, Russell, Kas.
The Dole family also includes a dog, Pokey, and two cats, one named Missy after Miss America, and the other, Rusty, after Russell, Kas.

Dole has two active campaigners in his wife and daughter. They packed up for Russell early last summer to campaign while Dole went back and forth 51 times from Washington to Kansas.
Robin passes out literature and has gotten to know various Republican townspeople in Kansas through the years. She attends the picnics and her father's speeches when she can, but is not overly interested in politics.
A freshman in high school, Robin is active in the student council and pep club. Her school, J. E. B. Stuart high school, won the crew event last summer in Henley, England, a point of great pride with her though Robin wasn't able to attend.
Mrs. Dole enjoys campaigning for her husband and swears that no one can set a better table than Kansas women. She is a veteran of all of his 14 winning county and congressional elections, but contends the voters would rather see him than her.
"He's the one making the decisions," she said. "He rarely discusses any issues with me."
The housewife prefers being at home where she refinishes furniture, paints, makes her clothes and the curtains, deco-

rates, and is a general do-it-yourselfer.
She slips out to the Falls Church grocery in stacks and loafers and enjoys her anonymity.
ACTIVE IN Republican women's groups, she is also program chairman for the weekly meetings of the Congressional Wives club.
She's anxious to begin rolling Red Cross bandages in the White House next year—a project assumed by the very "in" group of senators' wives. One of the first things a senator-elect's wife does is buy her Red Cross uniform, an older senator has sternly advised Mrs. Dole.
The family has remained relatively quiet during the eight years they have lived in the Washington area while Dole has been a representative. So much so, that Mrs. Dole has to laugh at the very formal "Welcome to Washington" notes she is receiving from proper officials' wives.
What the next four years will bring to the Robert Doles is hard to estimate.
Both Republican and Democratic observers predict that Dole is going to climb the political ladder very quickly.
Nixon consulted with him last week and Dole expressed his preference on the cabinet selections.
He plans to observe the Senate situation for awhile, with particular interest in agriculture and food. He also will have further surgery—cutting and stretching a lesion at a time—beginning next month.
"It won't make me an all-American boy," he said, "but it will help."