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EDITORIALS

We're Proud of You, Bob . . .

This week Russell is the proudest city and Russell County is the proudest county in the United States, since environs here Friday had the opportunity to host the President of the United States and to celebrate and pay honor to Gerald R. Ford's selection in Kansas City, Mo., last week of the city and county's favorite son, U.S. Sen. Robert J. Dole, as the vice-presidential nominee of the Grand Old Party in the 1976 presidential election. We were honored to have Sen. Dole and members of his family and Gov. and Mrs. Robert F. Bennett, Lt.-Gov. Shelby Smith, U.S. Sen. James B. Pearson and Congressman Keith Sebelius as our guests.

With the naming of Dole to campaign alongside Ford in the forthcoming election, Russell's "Hometown Boy Who Made Good" joins the ranks of few men, in fact, of only three other Kansans in this state's history who have been tapped to seek either the No. 1 or No. 2 federal government position. Only one Kansan, Dwight David Eisenhower of Abilene, has been elected President of this great nation, and only one other person, Alfred M. Landon, formerly of Independence, has received the call to head a national political party and to seek the presidency. And only one Kansan, Charles Curtis of Topeka, has served in the high office of vice-president, which Dole now seeks. Curtis also was nominated at a Kansas City convention, in 1928. He served from 1929 until 1933 with President Herbert Clark Hoover.

Dole's candidacy brings honor and acclaim to Russell, to Russell County, and to Kansas. It will give us national recognition and publicity. Within less than two hours after Dole was advised of his selection Thursday, the nation's press converged on Russell to learn more about Dole and his early life and childhood.

We predict that Dole will rise to the occasion, as he always has before, and will be an asset to Ford in the forthcoming battle for votes. Dole is extremely intelligent, handsome, likeable, appealing, with a tremendous sense of humor, and a tireless campaigner. He is a staunch conservative, and should help win for the ticket in the Midwest, Southwest and the West, and we predict his type of slugging campaign will win the party more votes in the Northeast and South than many now expect. Dole, like Ford, is a man of honesty, decency, and personal integrity. He also is a man of high moral character.

Although he was the Republican Party's national chairman during the 1972 election, he is completely clean, with no taints of Watergate to stain his record. Dole realizes that public morality and public trust go hand in hand.

Welcome Home, Bob!

Friday's visit to Russell by U.S. Sen. Bob Dole was one of the homecomings about which his hometown friends have long dreamed. Few dared to hope that this favorite son would return as the vice-presidential candidate. The possibility that he could be accompanied by the President, Gerald Ford, seemed even more remote. When the Republican presidential package was wrapped and tied in Kansas City Thursday, civic pride reached the button-busting point.

With city-wide cooperation, arrangements were finalized for a real homecoming, a "Bob Dole Day," which was not diminished by the time schedule which condensed it to an hour.

The appearance of President Gerald Ford in Russell with Bob Dole was far more than a political gesture. It marked the opening of a full-scale, all-out political campaign in which the Ford-Dole team has to win to survive. It was more than a window dressing, too. There are many common bonds between the men in their beliefs, ideals, and approach to the American Way, which they hope will be adopted in a sweeping victory in November.

Bob Dole is a man with a plan. In his years of public office, he has held, in the practical, down-to-earth manner of those who are sincere, to the concepts which make this nation great. While Russell is his home, he has represented his district and his state, and hopes to represent his nation.

But today, Bob Dole is the boy who worked hard in high school, was an athlete, carried newspapers, worked at the soda

Ford and Dole launched a Harry S. Truman-type "Give 'Em Hell, Gerry" campaign Thursday night in their acceptance speeches which finalized the 1976 Republican convention. Ford, in the best speech of his 28-year political career, challenged Democratic nominee Jimmy Carter of Georgia to debate the issues. Dole and presidential challenger Gov. Ronald Reagan of California called for party unity. Dole also asked Americans to raise their expectations.

Ford's 36-minute acceptance was a conservative speech against big government, for individual rights and freedoms, and in favor of a strong national defense. He also attacked the Democratic controlled Congress. In a professional, confident manner, he pointed with pride to his two-year record as the nation's only appointed president and asked a mandate for election to a four-year term of his own. In his call to arms he came out fighting to win. He and Dole demonstrated spirit and enthusiasm and gave every indication they intend to reverse the 23-point margin by which they now trail Carter and Walter C. Mondale of Minnesota. They pointed with pride to past accomplishments and predicted greater progress in the future through our free competitive enterprise system. They acted like incumbents who intend to remain in office and to provide the leadership so necessary to the United States and the stability of the free world, with justice, peace and charity as important goals.

Yes, we're proud of Bob Dole and happy about his selection as the Republican candidate for the vice-presidency. He is a professional. He brings honor and credit to Russell, to Russell County, and to Kansas, and serves as an inspiration for the youth of this nation, for only in a free society such as ours can a man from the High Plains of the Sunflower state of Jayhawkers be tapped for this high office of leadership and government.

We've watched Bob Dole serve in government as a state representative, as a four-term county attorney, as a four-term congressman and a two-term United States senator, and now with confidence we look forward to him bringing more honor and acclaim to this proud city, county and state as he prepares to move into the vice-presidency next January.

He's the county's favorite son, and we stand in salute to him. We take our pride in him, for we know he has the courage and the dedication for a cause. And we predict that before this campaign is over he will be known in all of the 50 states and four territories of the United States as a campaigner, as a gentleman, and as a statesman. —A.D.E.

fountain and went off to college—and to war. He is the same young man who overcame tremendous odds, largely through the help of his friends at home, the terrible wounds of war. He is the same sobered soldier who heard Dr. Kilickian of Chicago, a surgeon responsible for his rehabilitation, admonish: "Don't worry about what you have lost. Think now about what you have left and what you can do with it."

"What you can do with it" is the Bob Dole story. His charm, wit, practical practice of the art of debate, conference, and compromise, and his determination to overcome challenges are proof of what he did and is doing with it.

Bob Dole is the man today whose shadow was cast many years ago when he grew up in Russell, learned Russell values, benefited from the Russell environment, and was shaped in the form provided by a set of circumstances which made the boy into the man and the man into a leader.

It is true that the fateful day, Nov. 2, lies ahead. Today, Bob Dole is a vice-presidential candidate. Tomorrow he may be vice-president or he may be practicing law somewhere. Russell people care, of course, about the spin of the fortune's wheel that lies ahead. But today, they are assured that Bob Dole is what they've long known—a hometown boy who is someone special. And most of those honoring him have had a part in that effective and perfectly natural development of Bob Dole, Russell's hometown boy. —R.T.T.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Rogg and children, Kevin and Lori, Hutchinson, came Saturday, Aug. 14, to visit and spend the day with his grandmother, Mrs. William Berry. They were enroute to Colorado on vacation.



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Mrs. Dole Ponders Decision

SALINA (UPI) — Federal Trade Commissioner Mary Elizabeth Hanford Dole says she will choose between her federal post and campaign trail between now and November.

Mrs. Dole, the wife of Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan., the GOP vice-presidential nominee, said she had been unable to discuss the matter with Dole since the announcement of his selection as President Ford's running mate.

She now serves on the Federal Trade Commission.

"You know we have really had no chance to sit down and contemplate what's happening to us," she said.

Mrs. Dole, attending a reception with her husband, said she had several options concerning the position.

"As soon as there's a quiet moment I really want to give some hard thought to that," she said. "It's been suggested that I might take a leave of absence or perhaps I will resign, I'm just not sure."

She said the decision was important to her role in the campaign.

"I'll remain on the commission and remain active on the commission but I would not be on the campaign trail, so I have got that solved," she said.

Dole Family Overwhelmed

"We were overwhelmed by the attention, consideration, and friendliness of all the people here Friday," Kenneth Dole, brother of Sen. Bob Dole, said today. "There is no way we can thank everyone for all the things they did to make the day such a success."

Speaking in behalf of his mother, Mrs. Bob Dole, sisters, Mrs. Tom Steele, Derby, Kan., and Mrs. W. L. Nelson, Ft. Morgan, Colo.; brother, Sen. Bob Dole; and members of their families, Kenneth Dole expressed thanks and deep appreciation for all that was done here in Sen. Dole's honor.

When the announcement was made Thursday noon in Kansas City that Bob Dole had been chosen as vice-presidential candidate to run with President Gerald Ford, there was a flurry of activity in Dole circles. "Bob asked me to call some people and Norma Jean to call others. It was great to be calling Russell, Kan. I can't begin to explain how much it meant to our mother and the entire family to know that we have so many friends," Kenneth Dole said today.

"It is hard to realize how much one's hometown means and all that it implies until real friendship appears as it has in the past three days," Dole said. "On behalf of the entire family, there's not enough that we can say to show our appreciation."

Mayor Williams Arrives in Time

Mayor Roger Williams and son, Pete, arrived in Russell a few seconds after Nancy Lane introduced Gov. Robert Bennett, starting the chain of talks from the platform on the courthouse lawn at noon Friday.

Miss Lane, president of the council, represented the city as a member of the official welcoming team.

"Roger, where have you been?" Miss Lane asked when she arrived as she completed the introduction.

Mayor Williams left several days ago for Washington, D.C., to assist in a move Pete was making to the city of Topeka. He is a brother of Eddie Nuss of Russell.

She was born Sept. 20, 1902, at Fall River, Mass. The couple had no children. She leaves two sisters: Mrs. Lee Traver, Big Fork, Minn., and Mrs. Eva McClelland, Eastman, Ga.

A rosary was held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday night at Boxwell Brothers Ivy Chapel, Amarillo, and a Mass at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Mary's Catholic Church, also in Amarillo.

There was a graveside commitment at 11 a.m. Saturday at Russell City Cemetery, Magr. Francis Senecal officiating. Local arrangements were with Pohlman's Mortuary.

Visit Becomes Reality After Hectic Night's Preparations

"President Ford and Sen. Bob Dole would like to stop in Russell Friday noon, if arrangements can be worked out," the telephone voice said about mid-afternoon Thursday. The caller from President Ford's staff added that an advance team would be in Russell in about three hours to look things over and make arrangements for the visit, if security, facilities, and time schedules can be worked out.

"The Senator has given us names of a few people he suggested we could meet with and we'd like to talk with you at about 6 p.m.," the voice continued. "We don't want anything formal, we like the idea of an open meeting, a real 'homecoming' for Bob Dole with everyone welcome."

A few phone calls later and a half dozen or so motel room reservations down the line, we called back to the Presidential aide to report that the meeting was on — and with fingers crossed, waited for the Presidential helicopter.

What wasn't said was that President Gerald Ford was dead set on visiting Russell "no matter how inconvenient it may be." He wanted to see Bob Dole's hometown with a new vice-presidential candidate, the first, incidentally, he has had, and meet Bob Dole's friends.

At a meeting with the press corps late Thursday, Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, stopped among media people to say: "We are going to Russell, Kan., Friday. There probably won't be more than one phone line and not much else."

What Nessen didn't know is that Russ Townsley, a Kansas City accountant, was sitting in the press section — assured that treatment in Russell was somewhat more generous and facilities more normal than Nessen dolefully anticipated.

How do you set up a party for maybe two thousand or more people, give a welcome to the President and a homecoming to Russell's U.S. Sen. Bob Dole? Adding impact to the awesome situation is the fact that Dole only hours before was named vice-presidential candidate to run with Ford on the Republican ticket.

Wherever the way the party is bound to be many which could be easier.

Early Thursday afternoon, only a couple of hours after Dole's name was announced in a surprise, starting at the party's national convention in Kansas City, Frank Ursomaro, member of President Ford's staff, called Russell to say that, if everything goes right, the President and Sen. Dole will drop in Russell Friday at noon for a short visit.

Now the last time a presidential candidate or president was in Russell, was in 1905 when President Theodore Roosevelt made a "whistle-stop tour."

At that time, there was several days notice. A gaudy platform was built near the Union Pacific Railroad station and a ramp constructed to the place where the Presidential observation car was to be spotted.

It was a great occasion. Flags were flying, bands played, schools were let out, and people came from miles around to see a rare sight, a United States President in person.

In this jet age, Ursomaro dropped a single bombshell: He and a party of 12 others, including several Secret Service agents, would arrive in Russell at 6 p.m. Thursday to see if it would be possible for the famous duo to drop in.

It was and they did. Meeting with Everett Dummer, City Manager Jim Boyd, Council President Nancy Lane, Chamber of Commerce president Don Arnold, station personnel Don Week and Richard Dummer, Acting Police Chief Bob Tyler, Daily News Publisher Russell Townsley and others, the visitors made a quick tour of Russell looking for a "setting for a gathering."

Holding an image from Ohio in which a similar session was held a few weeks ago, coordinator Andy Stern liked the looks of the courthouse square.

After a series of phone calls at the Ramada Inn where 11 rooms were reserved for the night, and after another trip back to the courthouse to map the area and layout locations for the one-hour stop, the crew broke up to regroup Friday.

Part of the party, including Ursomaro and Jack Merchant, Secret Service agent, returned to Salina and Kansas City. Even then it was simple.

The helicopter, sedately painted in official colors and bearing official insignia on its flank, had gone back to Salina to refuel its jet engines, to return to Russell, with plans for stage Salina and Kansas City before coming back



AT A RECENT VISIT to Russell, Sen. Bob Dole is shown chatting with Russell friends and his mother, right, Mrs. D. R. Dole. Pictured with Dole are, from left, Mrs. Doris McCobb and Mrs. Betty Laubhan, Russell county clerk.

to Russell Friday with dignitaries.

What's a homecoming in a picnic setting without picnic food?

The second series of meetings, got down to the basics — food — in the Blue Room of the Elks Lodge while officers and Secret Service agents went through details in a session in the Ramada Inn.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Opal Ehrlich, Russell County Republican Central Committee, the Republican women were recruited to find and man six backyard barbecue units on which some 1,000 or more hot dogs were to be grilled.

Dell Klema was contacted to canvass local supplies for the wieners, buns, bread, potato chips, and the rest. A water tank and ice in which some 40 or so cases of pop were cooled were arranged by other interested persons.

Nancy Lane, president of the council, was enlisted to step in for Mayor Roger Williams, delayed in Maryland on a return trip from Washington by car failure. It was her assignment to introduce Bob Dole who, in turn, introduced President Ford.

About sundown Thursday, secret service agents staked out

pathways at the courthouse through which the honor party would walk.

City Manager Jim Boyd checked on providing a fire truck at the airport. Ambulances were needed at the airport and at the courthouse.

Dorance Smith, a member of Ron Nessen's staff in Washington, made arrangements for press tags for members of the many radio, television, and newspaper people on hand. Identification was issued at the airport and at the courthouse. A special place was set aside southwest of the small speaker's stand.

Stern and Winecamp opted for a view with the courthouse in the background while Smith, under pressure from several of the out-of-town press in town Thursday evening, pushed for a row of bleachers to face cameramen an elevation from which to shoot pictures.

Late Thursday, the issue was a stand-off. Large R. C. Williams, Inc., trucks, usually used to move the portable bleachers, were signed to move all rigs Friday and it appeared there might be no way to provide the vantage point.

Mrs. Ford, who originally planned to come to Russell, changed her itinerary after a series of late-night convention sessions in

Kansas City. She went directly to Vail, Colo., to await her husband.

The logistics of moving the President's party were almost as steep as those of setting up the homecoming. The President's special limousine, with its bullet-proofing and bubble top, was moved to Salina and then to Russell. Helicopter flights were coordinated with Air Force 1, the President's plane. Time schedules checked to assure time for landing in Colorado late Friday afternoon with adequate allowance for an additional 35 minute flight, before darkness, through the mountains to Vail.

With news people working throughout the night on background stories, city crews blocked streets, made sure flags were flying, and worked out minute details for the One Shining Hour.

Friday morning was a recap of Thursday with each of those involved looking for oversights and omissions. The weather cooperated, the townspeople assisted and the program, in all its informality, shaped up almost as scheduled.

"We usually have five or more days for an event of this kind," Andy Stern, Presidential aide, confided late Thursday. "But," he concluded with obvious finality, "this time we couldn't!"

If I Have Had Success It Is Because of People

"If I have had success," U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, Russell, told a tightly packed crowd of over 3,000 on Russell's courthouse lawn at 6 p.m. Friday, "it is because of the people here."

Visibly moved by the intimate impact of so many friends, relatives, acquaintances, classmates, and boosters, Dole broke into a smile. "The times I have needed help, the people of Russell helped me."

The senator was referring to a period after World War II, when he was seriously ill from war injuries, that public subscription brought funds to pay for a vital operation on a shoulder and upper arm which refused to heal.

His road to recovery and later successful determination which carried him from state legislator, county attorney, congressman and U.S. Senator, was launched at the hands of famous Chicago surgeon H. Kilickian — with the support of the people of Russell.

"That was a long time ago," Dole said, "and I thank you for it."

The nominee for vice-president of the nation on the Republican

party lost none of his wit, even in the company of President Ford, whom he introduced a few minutes later.

"Friday is a good day in Russell," Dole said. It was a good day for Teddy Roosevelt who campaigned here in 1905. Roosevelt is the only other American president known to have stopped in Russell.

Dole said he was surprised when President Ford called him Thursday morning and asked if he would like to be on the ticket. "I said yes—after I thought it over—about one second," Dole said. "I've known Jerry Ford for 16 years and he is a friend of Kansas."

"It was a surprise to me," Dole said, speaking of the selection in the No. 2 spot of the party ticket. "They told me I was on the list. I saw several lists—but I couldn't find the President's list."

"Ford said we will start on our campaign tomorrow in the heartland of America. That's why I am here, Russell is certainly the nation's heartland," Dole stated.

"I am proud," Dole said modestly.

Dorance Waits, Hopes For a 'Yes' From Dole

DORRANCE—The Republican candidate for the office of Vice-President of the United States, the grand marshal for the Bicentennial Spat Jahr Fest parade in Dorance on Saturday, Sept. 4? Dole said he would.

Members of the Spat Jahr Fest committee here invited U.S. Sen. Robert J. "Bob" Dole several weeks ago to serve as parade marshal for the event, and they are crossing their fingers in expectation.

Sen. Dole acknowledged the invitation, and at the time wrote

that he would advise closer to the September date, whether he would be able to find a place on his calendar to allow him time to attend the Spat Jahr Fest. But that was before President Gerald R. Ford announced Thursday that Sen. Dole was the President's choice as his vice-presidential running mate.

It is obvious that Sen. Dole has a few things on his mind other than the Dorance Spat Jahr Fest but nevertheless, he has not officially declined the invitation, and folks here are crossing their fingers, and hoping.

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