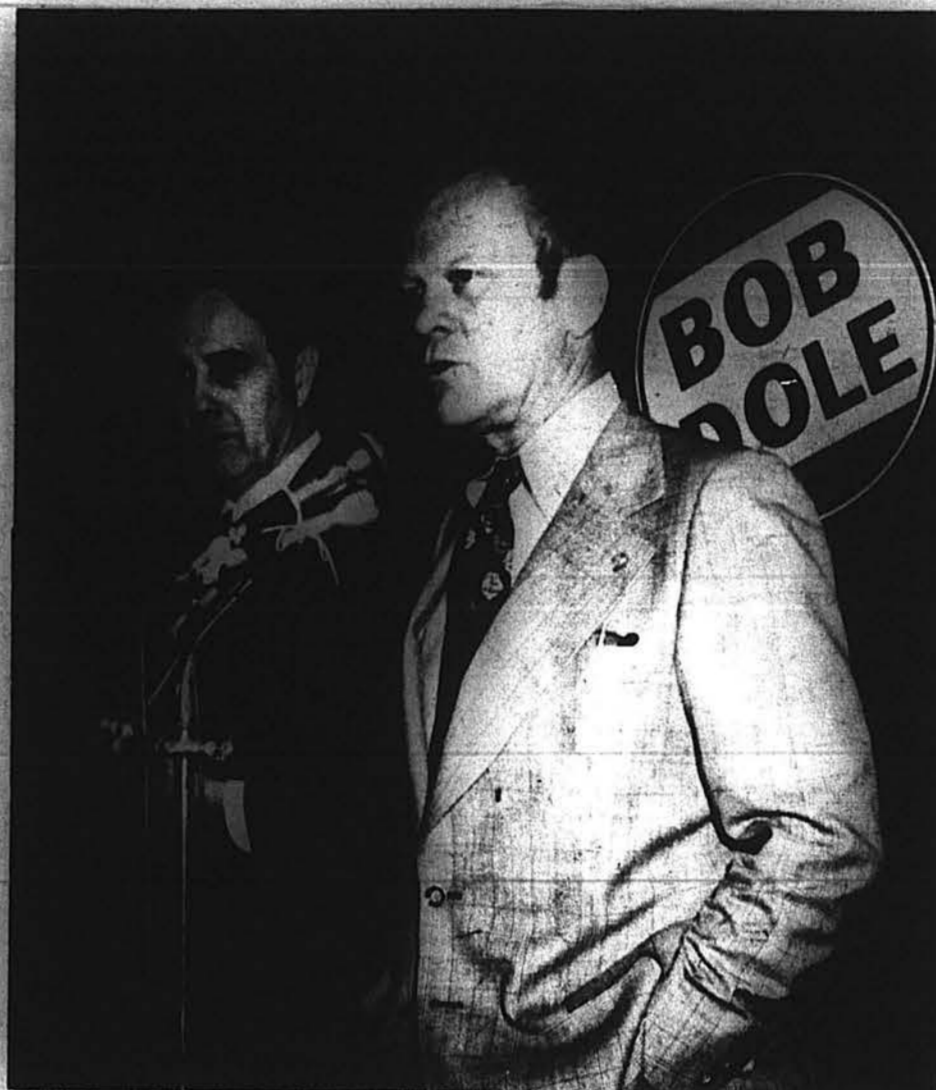


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THE PRESIDENTIAL CARAVAN arrived at the Russell Courthouse shortly after noon Friday. The visit by President Gerald Ford and Sen. Bob Dole, vice-president nominee, opened the 1976 presidential campaign for the Republicans. Dole, a Russell native, was tabbed by Ford as his running mate Thursday at the GOP convention in Kansas City. Ford and Dole flew from Kansas City to Salina Friday morning and then boarded a helicopter which brought them to Russell. (UPI Photo)



GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States, is shown with Sen. Bob Dole at Great Bend in 1974 when the two made an appearance for Dole just prior to the general election. Ford and Dole are the Republican team selected at the GOP convention Thursday at Kansas City to oppose Jimmy Carter in the November election.



SEN. ROBERT DOLE and his bride, the former Elizabeth Hanford, are shown at a reception Saturday, Jan. 3, at the Russell State Bank. It was a nonpartisan meeting hosted by the Russell County Republican-Central Committee and Republican Women's Club. There were 225 attending. The gift, presented by Mrs. A. D. Glenn, right, was an Armetale Queen Anne charger, which is a metallic plate for buffet serving.



FRIDAY NOON President Gerald R. Ford and Sen. Bob Dole arrived in Russell to open their 1976 GOP campaign. It was the second visit of an incumbent President to Russell. The first was in 1903 when Teddy Roosevelt stopped in Russell, traveling by train. Thousands of people waited at the courthouse Friday to get a glimpse of the presidential team. (Staff Photo)



CONTRAST! American President Theodore Roosevelt is shown doffing his top hat as he makes his way down a ramp during a whistle stop visit to Russell in May, 1903. The platform was erected adjacent to the Union Pacific mainline through Russell and was reached from the observation platform of the presidential train. The picture is from a commercial stereopticon slide.



W. R. "BUB" SHAFFER, president of the Home State Bank, was interviewed Thursday in downtown Russell after the city received the news that Sen. Bob Dole, a hometown boy, had been tabbed as the running mate for President Gerald R. Ford. Friday the President and Dole visited Russell where Dole showed off his birthplace and chatted with many old friends. (Staff Photo)



NEWS MEDIA converged on Russell shortly after dinner Thursday after President Gerald Ford had announced the selection of Sen. Robert J. Dole as his running mate for the November election. The Russell community immediately became a beehive of activity. Within hours the wheels began to roll to organize a visitation by Ford and Dole Friday. (Staff Photo)



THE RUSSELL STATE BANK November general election. Above the was the central focal point for the news media Thursday afternoon after the announcement reached Russell that their hometown boy, Sen. Bob Dole, had been selected by President Gerald Ford to be his running mate in the