

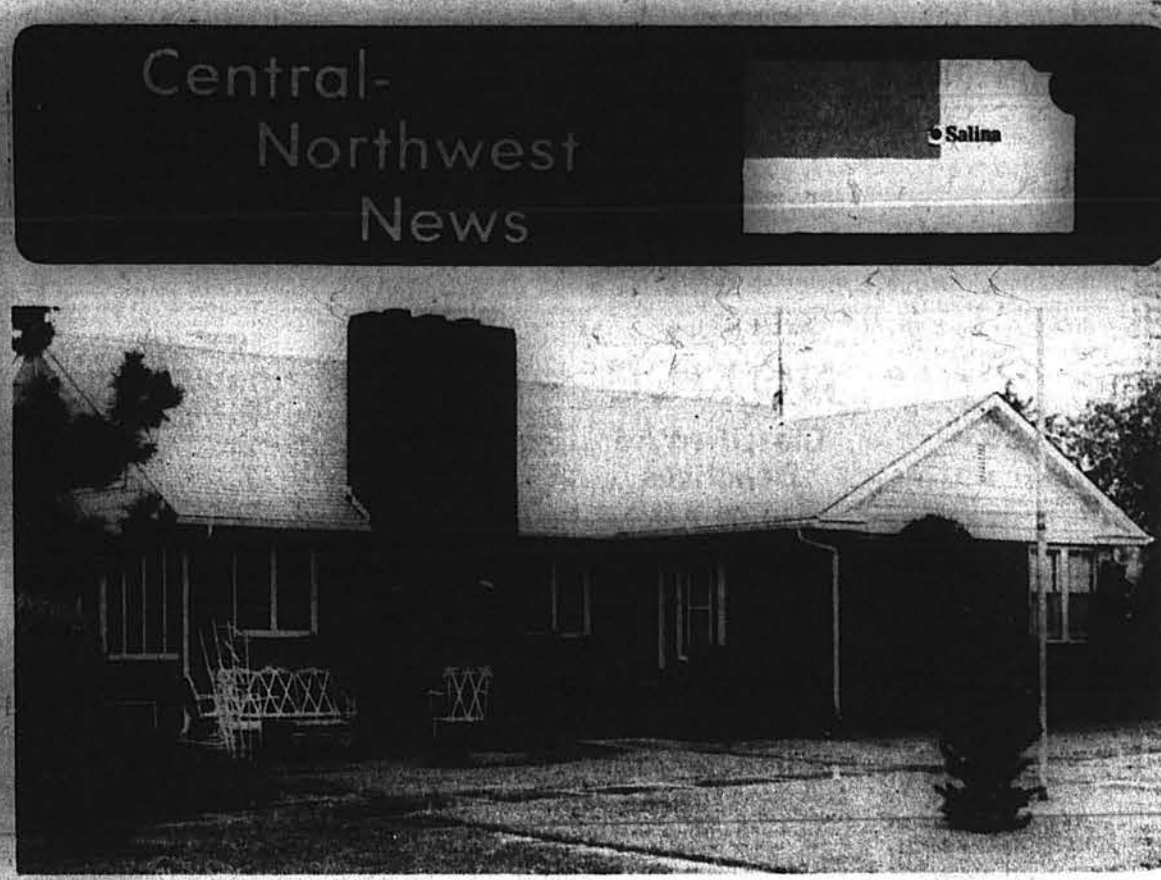
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Head of the family

Bob Dole might be a presidential contender, but his mother, Bina, is the undisputed head of the

Dole clan. Sen. Dole will visit his mother and the city of Russell, May 13 and 14.



Boyhood home

Sen. Dole spent most of his early life in this home at 1035 Maple, Russell. The Dole family moved

to this house when Bob was nine months old.

Senator's mother proves that

Spring cold is no match for the Dole wit

RUSSELL — Mrs. Doran (Bina) Dole had just returned from a doctor's appointment and was nursing a very bad cold, but she could still muster a witty remark. "Phyllis, my ex-daughter-in-law, always said if I ever lost my sense of humor I'd be dead. I think she was right. I think I'm losing it."

Mrs. Dole, the 76-year-old mother of presidential aspirant Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.), might be losing her sense of humor. One hesitates to contradict a woman who is definite about most things, including the way her name should be pronounced (with a long "i" as in pie). She definitely doesn't want everybody running around calling her "Beena, the way they did the last time."

That last time was when Bob was the Republican vice-presidential candidate in 1976, the only election he's ever lost. Family members have explanations for the loss: two weeks spent at Vail, too short a campaign, etc.

Mrs. Dole doesn't bother much with the explanations. She remembers too well the 3½ years her son spent in the hospital after he was wounded in World War II, and the time doctors gave him only 15 minutes to live.

"I was with Bob in the hospital and saw too many boys ... I know there are things more important than losing elections."

Mrs. Dole is proud of the way Robert overcame the disappointment of not being able to pursue the medical career he'd planned because of his disabled arm. She's proud of his achievements in law and politics.

But she's no prouder of him than of her other children, Gloria (Nelson), Kenny, and Norma Jean (Steele). She feels they've all accomplished much in their fields.

Part of the reason for their accom-



By
Kay
Berenson

plishments may be the family determination and dedication to hard work, instilled early in all the Doles, who were described by Gloria as "a bunch of workaholics. We've all got this push."

The "push" came partly from following their mother's example. Gloria remembers her mother scrubbing and waxing the front porch, something she says no one else in town did.

Mrs. Dole has slowed down a bit over the years. She used to raise over 100 rose bushes in a 10-foot-wide strip of her yard. She doesn't any more. She still has flower beds waiting for planting, and complains in gardener fashion about the weather, too cold to plant caladiums. She doesn't sew as much as she used to either, just curtains once in a while.

Still keeps busy

Still, she keeps busy, and she keeps her family busy. The morning of the interview she returned from the doctor's office to spend time with a reporter before supervising a paperhanging project in her living room.

Her son, Kenny, a Russell oil producer, and daughter, Gloria Nelson, Fort Morgan, Colo., had come to help with furniture moving and other preparations.

Grandson Jeff Nelson, Salina, says the family helps because they are summoned.

"The word came down, almost like a Mafia godfather, that she wanted the

house papered and everybody pitched in," he said. "She has a way of getting things done."

Budget struggle

Bina Dole worked hard while raising her children. She and her late husband, Doran, struggled to balance the budget and meet the challenge of Depression days on the income of the Dole produce and grain business.

Kenny, who claims to have gotten his first new pair of shoes when he went into the Army, remembers his father's shoe-saving strategy. Saturday nights, Kenny says, "Dad would bring home 10-cent soles and glue 'em on the shoes and they'd last till next week."

Bina Dole did the customary things to save money — canning, cooking from scratch and making the children's clothes from hand-me-downs.

In addition, she sold sewing machines and gave sewing lessons to earn money while her sisters and a part-time paid helper looked after the children.

Having been a working mother she sees nothing wrong with mothers today working, as long as the children have someone at home with them. And she thinks parents have to spend time with their children.

"You've got to give them some answers," she said.

She thinks women can handle the challenges.

"Women some ways are far more efficient than men, maybe more careful, more particular."

There were occasional problems when she worked, like the time Kenny played hooky from school the day his mother came home from work early.

Nobody described what happened next. Gloria says she said she believed her mother was awfully strict.

"Most families have only one black

sheep, Mom had two, Kenny and I," Gloria admitted. "Bob was always the 'serious' one in the family. In family pictures, Kenny and I'd always be poking each other. Before Christmas we'd crawl under the bed to get a peek at the packages. Bob was always saying 'no, no, you shouldn't do that.'"

Bina Dole doesn't say too much about her "black sheep." She does remember their grandmother would never take both of them at once because they were too mischievous. Bob, she says, never gave her any trouble.

One of 12 children, Bina Talbot Dole grew up on a farm south of Russell and thinks her childhood on the farm was probably happier than her own children's. But she doesn't regret the things her children didn't have or the hard times when they grew up.

The Dole children had homemade toys, scooters and wooden guns designed to fire inner-tube strips. One Christmas Eve, Doran Dole did manage to buy the children a wagon — a memorable gift.

She's proud her children were raised to depend on themselves. "A lot of people nowadays take welfare. We wouldn't. I'm glad we brought up our family that way, not to depend on others ... Now they run to welfare and food stamps. Of course, I don't believe in food stamps."

Part of the Dole education in independence included hard work. Robert and Kenny had paper routes when they were very young and earned money delivering handbills. When they were 13 and 12 years old, the boys loaded grain and unloaded boxcars during the summers. Later, both worked at the soda fountain in the Dawson Drug Store.

Bina Dole didn't believe in spoiling children. She still doesn't, but thinks it was easier to raise children years ago when there weren't so many temptations around — drugs and the like — and when parents couldn't afford to give their children too many things.

She thinks her 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren have too many things, but are turning out all right, anyway.

Grandson Jeff, who now works for a mobile home company in Salina, remembers the summers he spent with her, and says "I think she'd have to fall into the category of spoiling grandmas. It was always fun to go to her house because she'd spoil us rotten."

"She let us do what we wanted to do, but she did keep us in line and she kept me pretty busy working in the yard, hauling dirt for her rosebushes."

On one occasion, Jeff and his grandmother were working together painting the house she owned next door. He was working from a ladder while she worked below when he accidentally dropped a bucket of paint.

It landed on her head. Jeff looked down to see tears running out of his grandmother's eyes, along with the paint running down through her hair. He thought she was crying because she was hurt. Instead, she was laughing.

He says he's never seen her lose her sense of humor or her cool, even when confronted with hostile voters on the campaign trail.

Jeff calls Granny, "kind of a salty old gal full of vim and vigor and pretty headstrong" and with "an awful lot to say about what goes on in the family."

She is willing to say what she thinks on most subjects, even to the press, which she doesn't really like because of all the negative things which have been printed about her son. How does she stay calm when the rest of the family is upset? She doesn't read the papers much — "just the good news."

She's an active campaigner, but doesn't worry about election results. She believes politics in general is a bit silly and doesn't know why anybody

would want "that job" (the presidency). "Look at Carter, how he's aged in office," she said.

If she had her "druthers," Bob wouldn't run, but she says she'll go along with it his decision because "you can't live somebody else's life for them."

She is excited about her daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, being First Lady and says, "she'll make a great one. The only question will be whether the president can keep up."

Family won't change

The Doles don't think the election will change their family, no matter what the results.

Bina, who Jeff says probably is a lot like Lillian Carter but wouldn't like the comparison because Miss Lillian is a Democrat, definitely won't move into the White House. Definitely not!

Kenny, who has a penchant for telling hard-time stories to reporters, has received one gift from his mother and sister, an empty can of Billy beer. He's not a beer drinker though, so the gift was entirely symbolic.

The family is planning a gathering when Bob visits Russell on Mother's Day. The menu is already planned — fried chicken, chocolate cake and homemade ice cream.

Bina Dole says she never really expected her son to be a candidate for president, even though he always was talented and determined. But she has an entire garage filled with clippings.

She doesn't wish the house in which Bob was born hadn't been torn down last year. A presidential library in Russell would have to make do without it. Such a library would also have to get along without any presidential baby shoes, bronzed or otherwise. Bina Dole had too many other things to take care of to bother with baby shoes.

Bob Dole Day:

By BILL HUMMELL

RUSSELL — The pace May 14 should be much less hectic than it was the last time Senator Bob Dole came home with aspirations associated with the presidency.

When Dole makes his next visit to Russell, where he is expected to make the formal announcement of his candidacy for the Republican nomination for president, the day should proceed calmly and orderly.

This time, the town has had several weeks to prepare for this special visit by its favorite son.

Such was not the case when Dole and former President Gerald Ford came to Russell shortly after the president had named Dole as his runningmate at the Republican national convention in Kansas City in 1976. Then the townspeople had only a few hours to prepare. City officials, law enforcement personnel (working in conjunction with the Secret Service), the local chamber of commerce and the telephone company labored throughout the night.

"It was 2 p.m. the day before the visit before we found out that they were coming," said Russell City Manager Jim Boyd.

In comparison, Dole's May 13-14 visit and address should go off like "a piece of cake," Boyd said.

Dole will arrive Sunday, May 13, to spend at least part of Mother's Day with his mother, Mrs. Bina Dole, and other members of the family at his boyhood home. Monday morning, he will visit the Russell Hospital, a nursing home and Dawson Drug Store, where he worked as a youth.

About 10 a.m., Monday, May 14, he will declare his candi-



Boyd

Dumler

Williams

dacy in a speech in front of the Municipal Building. Immediately following will be a new conference. Then Dole will drive to Hays to catch a charter flight to Des Moines, Iowa, where he will meet at 1 p.m. with state Republican leaders.

Mayor Roger Williams appointed a committee a few weeks ago to work out local angles of the Dole visit.

"Our major purpose will be the Bob Dole Day ceremonies," he said.

The mayor signed a proclamation May 2 declaring Monday, May 14, as Bob Dole Day in honor of the senator's distinguished political career, the recognition he has brought to Russell and to Kansas, and his mid-May visit when he "could possibly effectuate a very historical and widely publicized event."

The local committee was formed following visits to Russell by Bill Goodwin, Dole's campaign advance man, and by Peter Sorum, the senator's scheduling agent, about three weeks ago. Since then, the committee, the city and the chamber of commerce have been working to see that all runs smoothly.

Russell gets ready to greet its favorite son on his historic visit

First on the schedule is a Mayor's Continental Breakfast for invited guests between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. in the basement of the Municipal Building. At 9 a.m., three bands from Russell and Gorham High Schools will provide entertainment for the crowd gathering outside. They will play until 9:30 a.m. A combined color guard will be provided by the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts.

All four streets leading to the Municipal Building will be roped off within half a block of the ceremony.

At 9:30, Mayor Williams will read his proclamation and introduce Sen. Dole. Then the senator will make his address.

At the conclusion of the talk, Dole will hold a press conference in the fire station at the rear of the Municipal Building.

Dear to Dad

"I am just assuming, but I think he wants to have the press conference there because his dad, Doran, was on the volunteer fire department here for over 50 years," Boyd said.

The Chamber of Commerce will have its welcome flags out and about 30 Chamber Ambassadors, dressed in bright red pants and blue coats, will act as official greeters, said Everett Dumler, manager of the Chamber of Commerce.

With plenty of time for planning, United Telephone Company will be able to provide ample hookups for the news media — both at the Municipal Building and at the High School, where the ceremony will be held in case of bad weather, said John Green, area manager. A trailer also will be set up outside the fire chief's office to provide the

media with eight pay telephones.

Russell Chief of Police Bob Tyler said he expects no problems. In addition to the full-time staff of six officers and four matron-dispatchers, Russell's reserve officer team of seven to eight men probably will be activated. Men from the sheriff's department and highway patrol also will be available if needed.

"We've gone through these visits before," Chief Tyler said. "We have more time to prepare this time. With the plans presented to me, I see no problems, unless there is a change and they decide they want a parade all of a sudden. There is no reason we can't handle it."

Just to make sure there are no problems, the chief's men will keep a watchful eye on people with whom they are not familiar.

City officials share Tyler's opinion that all should go smoothly. None seem concerned that no Secret Service agents will be in town.

"I see no need for security other than traffic and crowd control," Boyd said.

"I don't think the senator would want a bunch of secret service men here anyway," Williams added. "This is his town. There won't be any trouble."

After Dole leaves, band members will go back to school for the afternoon, the flags will come down and everyone will resume their normal activities.

"Then we pray (for a successful candidacy)," said Boyd. "I hope things will settle down, but I'm sure there is going to be an air of excitement here through the convention."