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National media beat a path to Bob Dole's hometown

By Tim Hoyt
The Hutchinson News
Central Kansas Bureau, Great Bend

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In addition, unusual activities and sounds could be seen and heard around 8th and Main streets, the spot where native son Bob Dole will announce his candidacy for president Monday at 9 a.m.

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crowd of between 5,000 and 10,000 people — including about 2,700 schoolchildren — will be on hand Monday, many of the new faces around town now belong to members of the news media.

More than 50 members of the national news media people will fly into Great Bend Sunday and then travel by car to Russell the same day. But many others have been gathering information early, some as far back as mid-summer.

"I've talked to as many as two or three people a day," said Kenny Dole, Bob's brother. "People writing biographies, freelance writers, newspaper people and such."

"It probably started about July," Dole added. "There's been as many as four a day, then some days none."

Any tidbit of information about Bob, his family life or his upbringing has been under scrutiny. G.B. Dawson, who worked with Bob at his family drug store downtown

more than 50 years ago, said he has had a steady stream of visits from the press. And he can recite the list:

"The Russell News, the Hutchinson paper, one from Tampa, Florida, the New Orleans Picayune, Des Moines, channel 12 in Wichita, I have an appointment with channel 3 in Wichita and Wendall Anschutz (KCTV, Kansas City). He's from here, you know?"

"Then there's been Newsday, Vanity Fair, the Wall Street Journal and, well, more than that — some independent writers, free-lance writers. I tell them all the same thing: I don't know what else to tell them."

By the time Monday rolls around, at least 100 members of the working press are expected, said Russell Townsley, publisher

of the Russell Daily News, who was asked to help accommodate the press by Larry Ehrlich, the county GOP chairman.

Townsley said he had heard already from 7 television stations that will be here to film the announcement, along with about 20 newspapers sending representatives and some radio stations.

"I don't have any idea what will happen," he said, but added that the town has been through such throngs before.

"We had 6,000 people on the courthouse lawn August 20, 1976," he said, speaking of the day Sen. Dole and former President Gerald Ford made their announcement in that presidential race.

"Then we had a fair turnout in 1905 when Teddy Roosevelt came through on the back of the train," Townsley added.

Russell Police Chief Bob Tyler, however, said the turnout expected Monday would

be bigger than any recent event in Russell. "A lot bigger," he said.

Chief Tyler was meeting Thursday with other police agencies that will be on hand to provide security. These, he said, include the Russell County Sheriff's Department, the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Barton County Sheriff's Department, the Ellis County Sheriff's Department, the Hays Police Department and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. In addition, he said some officers from a special Washington D.C. capital police force will be on hand.

"This one is not quite as easy" as the 1976 announcement, Chief Tyler said about security. He said because it had been scheduled for so long, plans had changed a number of times, and because the event will be held at the high school gymnasium should it rain, they've had to prepare two security plans.

Hutchinson News, Sunday, Nov. 6, 1987

Music for Bob Dole will play on time

By Tim Hoyt
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RUSSELL — Among the 2,700 or so students on hand Monday morning in Russell for Sen. Bob Dole's official announcement of his candidacy for president will be bands from Great Bend and Russell high schools, Kennedy Middle School and St. John's Military Academy, along with the Russell High School Pops Choir.

And among the tunes all the bands will collaborate on will be what is being called Bob Dole's theme song, "Step to the Rear," as arranged for band by Steve Lueth, director of bands for the Russell Schools.

This tune, from the musical "How Now, Dow Jones" by Elmer Bernstein, will be played by all the bands in attendance immediately following Dole's speech at 9 a.m. Monday morning in downtown Russell. Because the bands have never rehearsed together, Lueth said the Russell band would play it before Sen. Dole's announcement in order to present a tempo for the later collaboration.

Schedule of forthcoming activities

Sunday, Nov. 8

7 p.m. — Open house, upstairs at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, on Copeland Drive in Memorial Park in Russell. Entertainment will be provided. Open to the public.

Monday, Nov. 9

7:30 a.m. — Free coffee and doughnuts at booths scattered through Russell.

8 a.m. — Music and entertainment provided by high school bands and choirs in downtown Russell. A crowd of between 5,000 and 10,000 people is expected, including about 2,700 students being bused in for the announcement.

9 a.m. — Sen. Bob Dole will officially announce his candidacy for president. Other speakers will include G.B. Dawson, the former owner of Dawson's Drug Store in downtown Russell, where Dole worked as a soda jerk.

Rain schedule

In case of rain, all events will be moved inside the Russell High School Gymnasium, 565 State. Times will remain the same.

said it's be "the most memorable I'll have in my career — unless he gets elected president and the arrangement is used again" at the inauguration.

The Great Bend and Russell high school bands, along with the Russell Pops Choir will begin the "pre-announcement" songs about 8 a.m. Monday, Lueth said. Then during Dole's speech, the bands will offer some "pep-rally type" music, and the crowd will be asked to join by singing along.

After the speech and after all the bands play the theme songs, all the bands in attendance will alternate, with each playing for 10 minutes. Lueth said that if the crowd had not dispersed by the end of 40 minutes, they'll start over.

According to officials with the Russell school district, 1,452 students from outside the district will be bused to the event, from as far away as Dodge City and Lyons. In addition, all 1,299 students in the Russell district will either walk or be bused to the speech.

Dole Announcement Schedule of Events

Sunday, Nov. 8

7 p.m.—Open house, upstairs at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall on Copeland Drive in Memorial Park. Entertainment will be provided. Open to the public.

Monday, Nov. 9

7 a.m.—Concession stands selling coffee, hot chocolate, doughnuts and bierocks will be scattered on Main Street.

8 a.m.—Music and entertainment provided by high school bands and choirs in downtown Russell.

9 a.m.—Introductions and speeches. Sen. Nancy Kassebaum to introduce Sen. Bob Dole. Dole will then announce his candidacy for president.

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No Tickets Necessary
No Admission Charged

Dole Song Arranged by Lueth

—Massed Bands to Play on Monday

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There's been more work involved in preparing the piece for the number of large bands to be on hand Monday. Lueth said he

had been told the tune had been used by other politicians, although he has been unable to find another arrangement for band.

"I went ahead and wrote an arrangement for it," he said. "I cleaned it up a little bit."

Lueth said the words to the tune are based on the theme "step to the rear and let a leader lead the way. It's pretty appropriate."

When the bands begin playing the tune he has arranged, Lueth

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Russell Becomes Center of National Media Attention

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