

264. 1987

The Russell Daily News

VOL. LVII — No. 268

Russell County's Only Daily Newspaper

RUSSELL, KANSAS 67665, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1987

USPS 473-520

Official City Paper — Official County Paper

Section 2



ELIZABETH DOLE
Former Secretary of the
Department of Transportation



ROBERT J. "BOB" DOLE
United States Senator from Kansas
and Republican Candidate for President

The Time May Be Right for an Old Pro

By RUSSELL T. TOWNSLEY
Senator Bob Dole knows what every other American knows — Ronald Reagan will step down and some American will be elected in 1988. There will be no vacancy in the Oval Office.

Dole knows, too, what he is asking of his country and of himself in seeking the White House. And he should, he's been a member of the team all his adult life and has been grooming for the top spot for nearly 30 years.

The way hasn't been easy, and no one promised that it would be. But Dole, born in a small mid-Kansas town, remains optimistic, confident, and qualified.

Dole wants to be president, and there is a growing number of people who want him to be president. In spite of a patina acquired by 27 years in Congress, Robert J. Dole remains a small town boy, the youngster who grew up next door — a Kansan — and proud of it. His roots are deeply tied to the Midwest, the heartland of the nation.

When Bob Dole first stepped from the wings onto the national political stage, he had been a state representative at the age of 26, and had completed four two-year terms as county attorney of Russell County, a central Kansas county and county seat town named for Capt. Avra P. Russell, a lieutenant of the Union Army.

Conservative Views Reflected
In his first terms in Congress, beginning in 1961, Dole reflected the conservative views with which he had lived his life. Critics sometimes overstated his political stand. The over-emphasis resulted from a natural reflection of public sentiment in an area where oil and farming, major industries, are high-risk occupations. Kansas is a state with a rock-hard cash basis law put in place after bitter experiences in the Depression Dust Bowl days of the early 1930s.

As Dole's responsibilities grew in Washington, D.C., his horizons expanded and his viewpoints broadened. Today, with a global background, he is nearer the middle road in political philosophy, still shunning the liberal left and maintaining a strong balance somewhat to the right of the political center.

A "People Person"
Many call Bob Dole a "People Person," a recognition of his unique, inherent feeling for rights and needs of people as well as an understanding of this nation's place in world issues from arms to trade. He is knowledgeable on issues from agriculture to arms treaties and experienced in the fine points of governmental operations.

Sen. Bob Dole is alone among current candidates for the presidential post in years of being seated in both houses of Congress, in Congressional leadership roles, and in universal appeal. He has served on major committees in both houses, has been Senate president, as well as majority and minority party

leader, a tribute to his ability to bring issues into focus and move ahead to resolve them.

He remains "the most electable" in the presidential field.

Born June 22, 1923, in Russell, Kan., son of Mr. and Mrs. Doran R. Dole, Robert Joseph Dole attended schools in Russell and was graduated from Russell High School in May, 1941. In school, Dole's years are marked with the fierce competitive spirit which made him lead on the basketball court, end on the football team, and a star in running track. The disciplines which taught him values of training and conditioning in athletics prepared him by teaching him to train and condition his mind.

Dole Enrolls at KU
Enrolling at The University of Kansas in the fall of 1941, Dole began the regimen customary for pre-medical students. He had

held high esteem for Dr. F. N. White, family physician and role model. Dole entered the U.S. Army in 1943, taking basic training in the infantry, and later attending Officer's Candidate School, where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

While a student at KU, Dole lettered in football twice, and once in track. In the tumultuous months after his being commissioned and sent to Italy as a replacement officer of an elite division of mountain-trained ski troops, the small town boy found himself in Northern Italy where his life was to change forever. Seriously wounded and given up as dying by medics, he spent 39 months in hospitals rebuilding his body, and with it, his life, his hopes, and his dream.

Physician Dream Scrapped
Plans to become a physician and surgeon were scrapped. In the battle, first for survival, and then for his future, Dole completed his education; then took his first step toward public office, a two-year term as representative of the 81st District of the Kansas House of Representatives. This introduction to politics was followed by four terms — eight years — as Russell County attorney in Russell; four terms — eight years — as congressman, first from the Kansas Sixth District, then from the reapportioned consolidation of the Fifth and Sixth districts into what became the Big First District of Kansas.

Dole Elected to Senate
In 1976, Dole was handpicked at the Republican National Convention in Kansas City, Mo., to be the running mate vice-presidential candidate on the ticket with Gerald R. Ford. The venture went down in the general election that November. On May 14, 1979, Dole returned to his hometown to launch a bid by Republicans for nomination for president.

Although the 1979 hat-in-the-ring effort was doomed, it brought favorable attention to the respected and vocal senator. The 1979 entry into a crowded field of candidates undoubtedly paved the way for the 1986 campaign now taking shape.

A biographical sketch of Senator Dole reads like that of many of his generation. He is the second oldest of four children. A sister, Gloria, (Mrs. W. L. Nelson), Russell, is the eldest. Brother, Kenneth D. Dole, Russell, is the third child, and another sister, Norma Jean Steele, Derby, Kan., is the youngest.

Parents Married in 1919
Doran Dole and his wife, the former Bina Talbott, were married in 1919, shortly after he returned from service in World War I. The wedding was in Great Bend

and the wedding dinner was in the White Front Cafe, a restaurant owned by Dole and located in downtown Russell. Later, Dole opened a cream station. The once-popular and important business, closely associated with family farms, has disappeared. In 1935, he moved to a new building north across the street.

A cream station was a depot where farmers could bring milk, cream and eggs. The milk and eggs were checked, tested and daily sent to market. Those who grew up here in the days of cream stations also remember seeing baggage carts at the railroad depot loaded with heavy milk cans waiting to be loaded aboard the evening passenger train.

In 1948, Dole made a move to a grain elevator as a natural succession. This time he went across the street to the north where the Norris Grain Company bought and sold wheat, grain sorghums and farm supplies, stocked and dispensed veterinary supplies, and supplied many farm needs.

There was always a race in June to see which farmer harvested the first load of wheat and the elevator to which he took it. Doran and Bina Dole came from farms not far from Russell, a town of less than 2,000 people in the post World War I era. The Dole family farmed about eight miles southeast of Russell and the Talbotts farmed south and a little west of town in the Kennebec area.

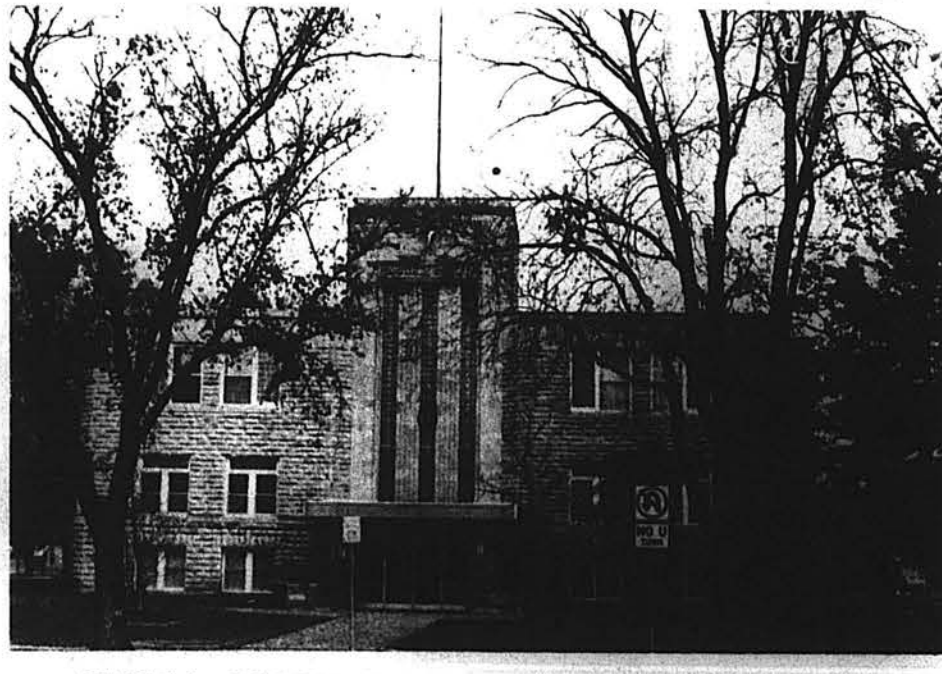
First Home Frame House
The Dole's first home was a small frame house located at 10th and Maple streets. Later in the 1920s, the Doles moved to a frame house at 1035 Maple St., a block north and on the other side of the street from their first home.

The home today is owned by Bob and his daughter, Robin. It was remodeled and modernized, with a brick veneer exterior, in the late 1940s. The attractive bungalow-type house now faces north onto 11th Street, although it still carries the Maple Street Address.

During those early years, the entire family worked and Bina Dole, household manager, moved her family into the basement during the Depression years of the early 1930s and rented the upstairs for additional household income. An excellent seamstress, she sold sewing machines and taught buyers how to use them, adding to the family income.

Dole Goes to Work
Bob had a Salina Journal newspaper route, according to one source, and rose early in the morning to get the papers shortly after they were tossed from the westbound passenger train. While in high school, Dole worked as a fountain clerk in Dawson's Drug Store, an after school and evening money-earner, although the \$2 a week "and all the ice cream he could eat" didn't go far, even in those days. He worked about 20 hours a week.

Later Dole worked for a competitor, Carl Missimer, in the Russell Drug, "Probably for more money," G. B. "Bub" Dawson said recently. Dawson, with his two brothers and father, operated the drug store in those years. Although Russell, Kan., reflected an early oil boom, the 1930s — those years when Bob



RUSSELL COUNTY COURT HOUSE — Bob Dole started his first term as attorney of Russell County in this building in 1953. He continued there for four terms, until 1961, when he became a United States congress-

man. His office was on the third floor, to the extreme left of the entrance. Dole put in long hours during his terms as county attorney and the lights burned late at night.

(Staff Photo)



BOB DOLE
An Army Gunner
At Camp Breckenridge in Kentucky
1944

(Continued on Next Page)