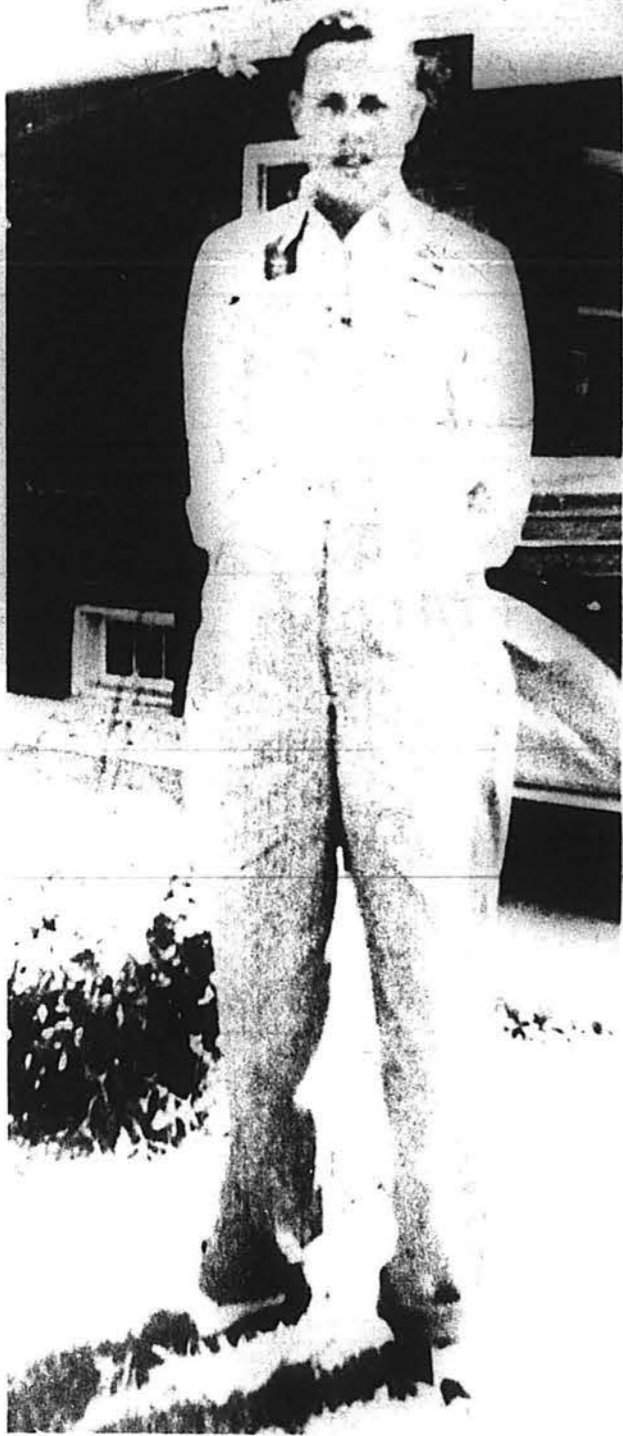
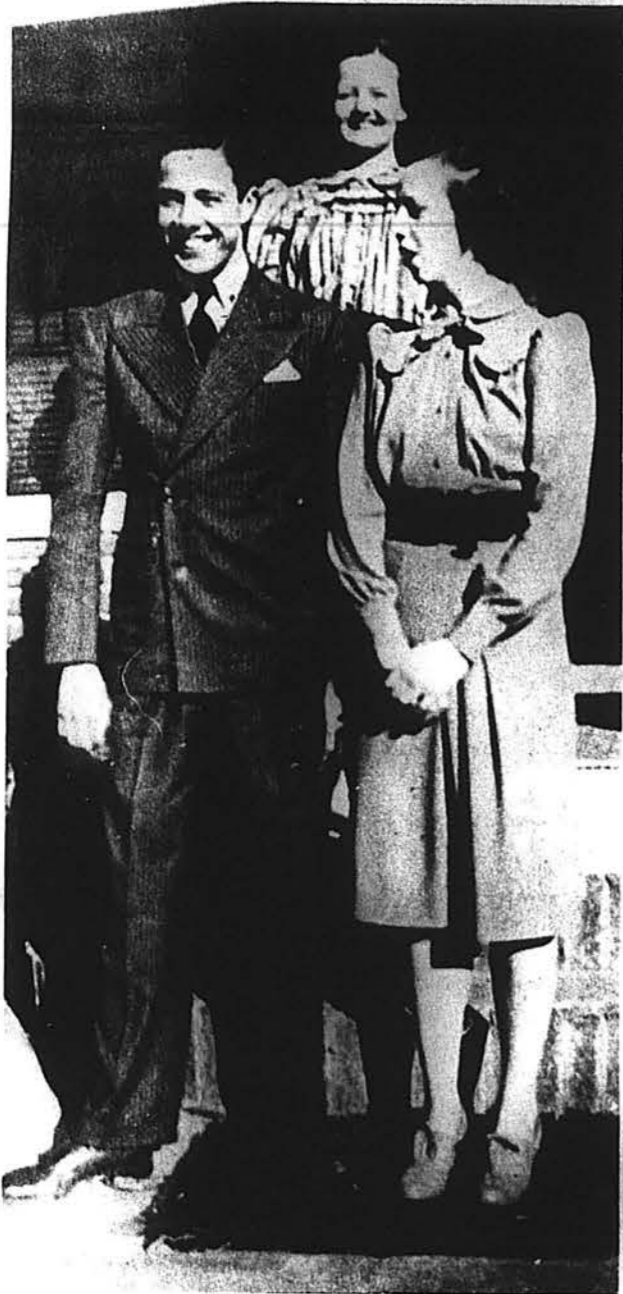


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LIKE MOST BOYS in the 1930s and early 40s, Dole sometimes wore overalls. Here he is standing in front of a neighbor's house. The automobile is a 1936 Chevrolet.



ALL SMILES, Bob Dole is sporting his senior suit as he posed on the front porch of the Dole home with mother Bina, in the rear, and sister Gloria.

Bob Dole Woos Voters With Folksy Approach

By JACK B. COFFMAN
 St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch
 St. Paul, Minn.

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Bob Dole tells of his modest beginnings in Russell, Kan., where his father operated a grain elevator, and where, as county attorney, he once had to approve welfare expenditures for his grandparents.

He touches briefly on his World War II service, where wounds left him with a nearly useless right arm.

He tells Republicans they need to change their party's image as the refuge of the country club set and reach out to disadvantaged groups.

And he jokes about his wife, former Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole, ending up on the national ticket with him, but not knowing for sure which spot on the ticket she would occupy.

But most of all, the Republican presidential candidate emphasizes his experience, which includes two years in the Kansas Legislature, eight years in the U.S. House, and 18 years in the U.S. Senate, the last three as Republican floor leader.

"I'm not perfect," he told a Hutchinson, Minn., audience Thursday. "I don't know the answer to everything. But I think I know where to find it. I know how the government works. I know where the bodies are buried, so to speak. I know where the buttons are, and I know how to work with Congress."

Dole's stump speeches are a folksy, crowd-pleasing blend of patriotism, hometown stories, high-level tidbits and a Republican call to arms.

On Wednesday night, the Kansas senator attracted more than 200 people at an appearance in New Ulm. On Thursday, more than 100 people turned out in Pegasus Falls and Hutchinson before the Kansas senator stopped briefly at the Minnesota State Fair and headed for the last campaign appearance of the tour in Winona.

During a two-day campaign swing through Minnesota, his first major effort here, Dole plowed into rural areas claimed by backers of New York Rep. Jack Kemp, the conservative congressman said to be a favorite among party regulars.

Dole did not mention Kemp by name, but he dropped a number of suggestions that he is a better vote-getter than other candidates he could mention.

Disgruntled Democrats will be looking for someone to vote for who is more conservative than the Democratic nominee, and he is the candidate they most likely would turn to, Dole asserted. The same is true for independents, he said.

Dole also stressed his experience as a farm state senator who has been deeply involved in shaping agricultural legislation.

Dole Exercises on Stationary Bicycle

The 64-year-old senator, Bob Dole exercises on a stationary bicycle positioned in front of the TV set in his apartment in Washington's Wagergate complex.

He pedals furiously while watching the evening news during the week, then pedals some more while catching all the political talk shows on Sunday (as long, he said, "as my wife doesn't drag me off to church.")

"There is no other candidate who has the experience working with your problems," he told a rural audience. "Not one in either party."

And he emphasized his experience at top levels of government. Dole told each audience of his recent visit to Central America and his public jousting with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, head of the Sandinista government.

He urged continued U.S. support for the contra rebels in Nicaragua — "We've got Cuba. One is enough," he told the crowd in Hutchinson.

IR Farm Belt leaders feel Dole and Kemp are duking it out at the front of the pack of Republican presidential candidates in Minnesota, with Vice-President George Bush in third place.

During his campaign swing Thursday, Dole picked up the support of former U.S. Rep. Archer Nelsen, who represented the state's Second District from 1969 to 1975.

"Kemp's a great guy," said the retired congressman. "But Bob fits in with what we need at this point."

An informal poll taken by the party at the Minnesota State Fair had Dole with 1,553 votes by midday Thursday, followed by

Bush with 1,042, Kemp with 694, and evangelist Pat Robertson with 500.

Some say Bush isn't pushing very hard right now and things could change when he does.

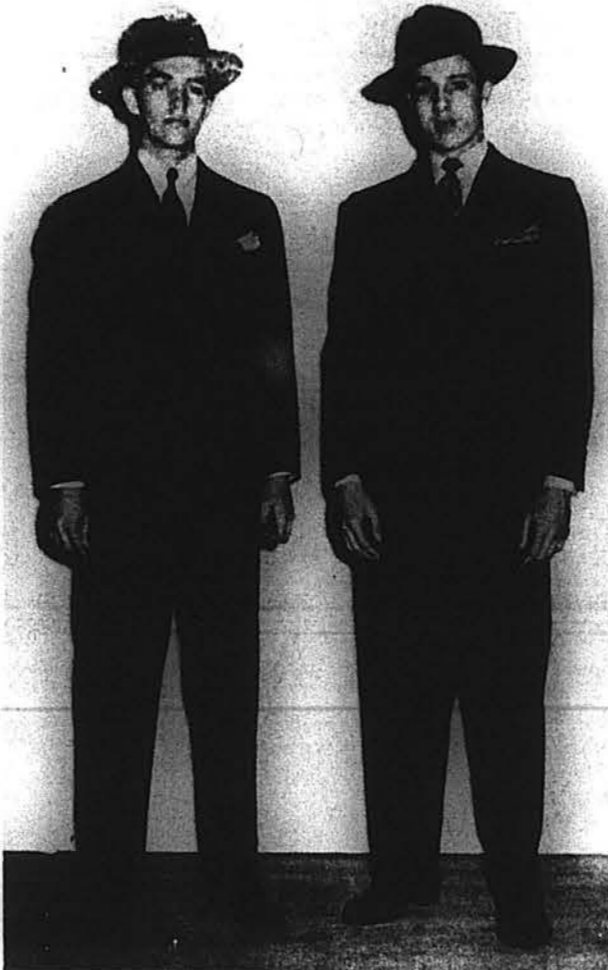
"Dole and Kemp are the leaders right now," says U.S. Rep. Vin Weber of the Second District and a Kemp backer. "But Bush hasn't really started yet. Kemp has a strong base in the conservative wing of the party. Kemp is leading with likely state convention delegates."

Connie Levi, former state House majority leader and co-chairwoman of the Dole campaign in Minnesota, agreed that Kemp has substantial support among party activists who have served in the past as state convention delegates. But she added: "I do think Sen. Dole has made inroads into that."

In addition to Levi, Dole has attracted Cal Ludeman, the 1986 IR candidate for governor, as a co-chairman of his campaign. In a move expected to reach out to the conservative religious groups that reportedly lean toward Kemp, the Dole campaign has named the Rev. Edward Johnson, a Rosemount Baptist minister, as vice-chairman of Dole's Minnesota campaign.



THIS PENCIL SKETCH is of 2nd Lt. Bob Dole as a hospital patient recovering from World War II wounds. It was made by a fellow patient.



BUD SMITH, left, and Bob Dole are participating in a style revue at Banker's Store while seniors at Russell High School in 1940-41. Smith was Bob Dole's best friend. He and Dole both liked to run and were track stars. Smith's father was manager of Oil Well Supply Company. The store was located on Main Street north of Norris Grain Company.



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