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'Cause I Like Him,' Former Sheriff Says

By IRENE H. JEPSEN
"Cause I like him."

This is the answer Harry L. Morgenstern gave to the question, "Why do you think the Bob Dole of today would make a good president?"

Harry Morgenstern first met Bob Dole in January 1955, when he was elected sheriff of Russell County while Dole was county attorney.

"I didn't know Bob, and he didn't know me."

Right after Morgenstern won the office as sheriff, he met Dole coming out of the Russell Courthouse. Dole reached out to shake his hand and told the new sheriff, "You know I didn't vote for you, or help you any. I hope you won't hold that against me." "I said, no. And that's how it started," Morgenstern recalled.

These two men were meeting for the first time and were to spend the next four years working closely together.

"In those years I found Bob Dole to do nothing unjustified as county attorney. He was kind and personable, but if a person was wrong, they were wrong — no matter who they were. Bob hated to see children abused; that was one thing that he didn't tolerate, if he knew about it."

"He was a great person. A good personality, very neat, and always got everything done. He was businesslike, but had time for everybody. He had a good sense of humor, yet could be real stern when he had to be."

A sheriff and a county attorney have to work together — must work together. The sheriff presents the case and evidence to the county attorney, who then presents the information to the court for prosecution.

As an elected official, the county attorney must take care of all the county business, in all legal aspects.

"And Bob Dole was the best county attorney that Russell County ever had. He never neglected the county's business."

Asked if there ever was a time that he as sheriff disagreed with Dole as county attorney, if not in action, at least in thought, if they ever clashed or indulged in power play, Morgenstern answered, "No, and there were very few days that I didn't see Bob. Our offices were right next to each other and he worked late at night, and I did too."

"We didn't talk about our personal lives. He didn't ask me



HARRY L. MORGENSTERN
Sheriff of Russell County, Kan.
While Bob Dole Was County Attorney

what I did in the Navy, and I didn't ask him what he did in the Army. I knew he got shot at, and I knew I didn't. But we never discussed it. Bob never felt sorry for himself; that was always evident."

After Morgenstern completed his term as sheriff, he ran the Tower Cafe and "Yes, Bob did come in there to eat." The two kept in touch until Dole went to Washington, D.C.

"We occasionally had dinner at each other's home."

When Bob Dole went out for a social evening, he was strictly social.

"Even in a social setting, a lot of people would have a question for him, and he would say he'd take care of it tomorrow. And he did, he really did. After a social gathering, however, he would go back to work. Even if it was 10 o'clock or 11 o'clock at night."

"I helped campaign for Dole

when he ran for state representative. I wish I were in a position to travel all over the country and campaign for him for president."

"He would make a very good president."

Not knowing Bob Dole prior to their connection in the county offices, Harry Morgenstern had no preconceived feelings or thoughts about him. The way he felt about Dole and remembers him as county attorney is what he witnessed by what Dole did while in office.

He came to believe in Dole and to like him, and even though he has seen him personally only twice since Dole's move to Washington, D.C., in 1961 the belief and liking have not changed.

"Would you vote for Bob Dole for president?"

"Yes."

"Why?"

"'Cause I like him."

The Droll Dole

Bob Dole has become known as one of the wittiest Republicans on Capitol Hill. His humor consists mainly of biting quips on a variety of subjects — often his own party.

On learning that Richard M. Nixon had taped all his White House conversations, "Thank goodness whenever I was in the Oval Office, I only nodded."

On Nixon's offer of campaign help in 1974: "I haven't invited him to stump for me, but I wouldn't mind if Nixon flew over the state."

On authoring amendments: "In 1971 I introduced a resolution which Sen. J. William Fulbright claimed he had already sponsored. 'Stealing a man's amendment is like stealing his cow,' Fulbright complained. But I reminded him that it was National Dairy Week and I would never steal a man's cow during National Dairy Week. 'I just milked it a little,' I admitted."

On Government spending: "My hometown newspaper, The Russell Record, once reported on a conscientious congressman who kept having a recurrent nightmare in which he dreams that all the money he is spending is his own."

On being a Republican: "A Republican has to have a sense of humor because there are so few of us."

On his last name: "I'm not a household word except in Hawaii. . . Dole is a four-letter word you can get used to."

On the presidency (in 1972): "When the president has a view and I have a view, we compromise and adopt his."

Dole —

(Continued from Previous Page) class by class, leaving their buildings together to go to the announcement site.

For most Russell residents, however, the best-laid plans appear to be those which include leaving the family car at home or near there — and walking the rest of the way to the announcement event.

Best estimates are that by noon, the town will have returned again to its normal state, with traffic normal and coffee counters and bridge tables busy with detailed discussions about the weekend's events.



THE WHITE FRONT CAFE — Doran R. Dole was the proprietor of the White Front Cafe located at about 833 Main St. in Russell when he and his wife, Bina, were married in 1919. The wedding was performed in Great Bend, but the wedding party returned to Russell for the wedding dinner, which was served in Dole's cafe. This picture was taken in February, 1920. Dole is on the right. Jimmie Richards is on the left and a Duff, a brother of Charles Duff, is in the center. Duff was the dishwasher.



BIG BROTHER Robert J. Dole, left, and his only brother, Kenneth D. Dole, posed for this picture near the rear of their father's 1927 Whippet.

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Dole Says He Reflects Rural Views

By KATHY BERDAN
The Daily Journal
Fergus Falls, Minn.
Sept. 3, 1987

There are plenty of people willing to take Ronald Reagan's place in the White House in 1988, but Sen. Bob Dole says he's the best candidate for rural America. Dole said he knows more about agriculture than any other candidate. He "understands real people," he said. He labeled himself "electable."

Although he hasn't officially announced his candidacy, the Kansas Republican said his campaign for president has been "doing well" among farmers and in small towns.

He told a crowd of more than 250 in Fergus Falls this morning that his Midwest common sense makes his views "fairly consistent" with theirs. A 27-year veteran of Congress, Dole said he's voted 11,000 times since he was elected to go to Washington in 1961.

Dole said United States voters want a "hands-on president." The two most recent presidents, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, had little experience in the nation's capital.

"People want someone who understands the system, someone who knows where the buttons are and how the system works," Dole said. He added that the president should confer more frequently with the leaders of Congress.

The leaders of both the House and the Senate should be consulted before any covert action is undertaken, Dole said.

"If you can't trust the leadership, you're in tough shape," he said, adding, though, that he is not criticizing President Reagan for the Iran-Contra affair.

He drew upon his rural background, telling the Fergus Falls crowd his father was proud to go to work in overalls every day for 40 years. Dole was born in Russell, Kansas, a county seat of 5,500 in west-central Kansas.

He said his campaign literature is "technically correct" when it states he enlisted in the Army during World War II. The draft was getting close when he volunteered, he said.

Dole served in the mountains of

Italy. He was seriously wounded in 1945 and spent 39 months in and out of the hospital. He lost most of the use of his right arm.

When he returned to his hometown, Dole said people encouraged him to go into politics.

Although his parents were Democrats, he said he ran as a Republican, partly because there were twice as many Republicans in his home county.

After two years in the Kansas House of Representatives, Dole became a county attorney. He was elected to Congress in 1960, and was Gerald Ford's running mate in the 1976 presidential election.

His background has given him an understanding of the problems people face in America, Dole said.

"I don't advocate the government taking care of everything and everybody," he said. "We can't guarantee success or eliminate failure."

"But some people have no where else to turn."

Dole said he's not proposing a "whole raft of new programs," but said part of his message is that he can empathize with some people and "be of some help."

"The federal government can't reach everyone, but it has to keep trying," Dole said.

He added that a good leader "has to stand up sometimes and — without taking a poll — make a decision."

Voters need to consider which candidate they would like to have sitting across the table from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Dole said. Work on arms reduction will continue beyond the end of Reagan's presidency, he added.

If short and medium-range missiles can be reduced, "then we have to go for the big ones," he said.

Dole expects his wife, Elizabeth, to position as secretary of transportation to be an asset to his campaign. He said he watched her on the morning news today announcing new reporting regulations for airlines.

Dole has worked on both the House and Senate agriculture committees. He'd like to see farm subsidies ended, but said that's not possible as long as other countries are subsidizing agriculture.

"If every other country — every other country — were to phase out their subsidies, we're in good shape. We can win," Dole said. "In the real world, that's not going to happen."

He said it's "hard to pass a farm bill." Five farms could produce six different farm bills, he said.

Dole is proud of the 1985 Farm Bill he helped to craft, he said.

"It's not perfect, but it's done a lot of good in America," Dole said.

The change in Minnesota's caucus date moved the state up in importance for presidential candidates, he said. South Dakota and Minnesota follow Michigan, Iowa and New Hampshire as tests in the national race.

"Minnesota is right up front," he said, adding he "reflects the

views of more people in the audience than any other candidate."

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