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THE DOLE'S, always a strong family, are gathered to help their mother celebrate a birthday on April 2, 1983, in the Russell Elks Lodge. Mrs. Dole is in the center, her children are: Senator Robert J. Dole, left, Gloria Nelson, second from left, Norma

Jean Steele, Derby, second from the right, and Kenneth D. Dole, right. Kenneth Dole owns Dole Leasing Company, Inc., here and his wife, Anita, an abstractor, owns Dole Abstract & Title, Inc. (Staff Photo)

## Robert J. Dole Alice Mills Reports Solid Student Bob Dole Good Student

When Bob Dole was growing up in Russell on the flat plains of central-western Kansas, the town was enjoying an oil boom. It had started in 1923, the year he was born, after the "Carrie Oswald" well came in.

The good times lasted into the '50s, but they bypassed the Doles. The family lived in a tiny, white frame house (since razed) on the north side — the wrong side — of the arrow-straight Union Pacific tracks that cut through the geometric grid of tree-lined streets.

Doran R. Dole, the Senator's father, managed the Norris Grain Company grain elevator and ran a small creamery and feed and seed business on the side.

Bina Dole took in sewing to help out, and made many of the clothes for Robert, his brother Kenneth and his two sisters, Gloria and Jean.

Recalls a neighbor: "The Doles just didn't have anything, when the kids were growing up."

To help out, Bob Dole jerked sodas after school at Dawson's Drug Store for \$1 a day. Saturday afternoons he and his friends would take in the matinee at The Dream Theatre, the only entertainment in town.

Growing up in his Andy Hardy world, Dole apparently never got in trouble; no one can remember him even pulling a Halloween trick. He was a solid student, but his real promise seemed to be as an athlete who went out for track, football and basketball.

"He was a marvelous physical specimen," remembered Coach Harold Elliott, "about 175 to 185 and 6-foot-2, and he was a competitor. If you told him to climb a wall, he'd climb a wall."

George Baxter, the football coach, recalled that Dole "never competed in the easy track events. He went in for the 400 and 800." An end on the football team, Dole won a big game for the Russell Broncos by making an impossible catch on the last play and slogging down a muddy field to score, while the opposing coach threw his hat to the ground in disgust and jumped up and down on it.

**Painter Is Related To Arnholds Here**

Buck Arnold, Hays, the man who painted the mural of Russell on the old Sellens Pool Hall building at 8th and Main streets, is a nephew of Alex Arnold and a cousin of Ben J. Arnold, both of Russell.

The mural depicts Russell as it was in the late 1920s and the early 1930s. The mural was prepared as part of the festivities for the "Bob Dole Day" planned here for Monday, Nov. 9.

By IRENE H. JEPSEN

"He was not a leader or a follower — he was independent." The reference above is when Bob Dole was a student at the Junior High School in Russell. Alice Mills was principal there for many years, and when Dole was an eighth grader she was not only his principal but his math teacher.

Asked if Dole was ever sent to the principal's office, Mrs. Mills answered "never."

"His grades in math were very good, his assignments orderly, and homework was done on time. His homework was done well, as has been his homework in the government," she said.

Within a student body of 150, Dole was the quiet one. "When called upon he was always ready with the answer, however. And I don't recall that he ever missed school. He had a good sense of humor, not only in what he would say but also in what he could perceive."

Describing the junior high youngster, Mrs. Mills used one word: "Alert; dependable; punctual; responsible; and responsive."

Mrs. Mills added, "He was not a showoff, nor did he seek special attention. Although his demeanor was independent, he was not aloof or indifferent to his fellow students. And he was never unkind."

Knowing the family of students was easier in those days, Mrs. Mills said that the Dole children for she knew them all — "always looked right. Exceedingly neat. Times were bad, but the mother's ability to sew kept her children carefully dressed and clean. I'm sure she (his mother) scrubbed Bob's ears thoroughly every morning."

"Bob Dole is an excellent senator; a powerful senator. To have served in a number of Administrations, and in the capacity he is in, and to never have become involved in skulduggery; to never had his name tarnished with moral or personal issues, is certainly to his credit.

"He is intelligent and comes right out and states when something should be done."

"Do you think he would be a puppet president," was the final question, and Mrs. Mills quickly stated, "No. Not ever."



ALICE McCORMICK MILLS

## Elizabeth to Lead Dole's North Carolina Campaign

By SETH EFFRON  
 Raleigh, N.C.  
 Sept. 15, 1987

RALEIGH N.C. — Elizabeth Dole said Monday that she's quitting her job as secretary of transportation and coming back to North Carolina to help her husband run for president.

She'll be opening a Southern regional office in Charlotte for Sen. Bob Dole's campaign. Elizabeth Dole will start her full-time campaigning with a 12-state Southern tour.

Dole, 50, is the highest ranking woman in President Reagan's cabinet. She said she'll leave her post on Oct. 1. As secretary of transportation, she directs the \$27 billion agency that has 107,000 employees.

She made her announcement to leave Monday morning after a 15-minute meeting with President Reagan.

"I want to be a major part in the campaign and do everything I can to be helpful," she said.

Sen. Dole's supporters in North Carolina applauded the move, saying it will boost the campaign that already has strong ties to the state.

Elizabeth Dole is a native of Salisbury and a graduate of Duke University. She is the only Reagan cabinet member profiled in the North Carolina Manual, even though she is registered to vote in Kansas, her husband's home state.

"In all the states involved in Super Tuesday (March 8), North Carolina is one of his strongest," said Bill Buchanan, a Burlington automobile dealer and key Republican Party activist supporting Dole.

The move by Elizabeth Dole "definitely says that the South is important to the Dole campaign, as well as to the state," Buchanan said.

"It's pretty obvious that the Dole campaign is kind of convinced that Elizabeth Dole has considerable strength in the South," said Bob Jones, communications director for the state Republican Party, which is remaining neutral in the primary battle.

Dole, Vice-President George Bush and Rep. Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., have all developed strong bases of support among key GOP activists. Dole and Bush

have ties to party's traditional wing that has backed state leaders such as Gov. Jim Martin and former U.S. Sen. Jim Broyhill. Martin said he won't be making any primary endorsements in the presidential contest.

Kemp has support among leaders of the party's ideological wing — particularly Sen. Jesse Helms' National Congressional Club whose leaders Tom Ellis and Carter Wrenn have endorsed him. Helms, so far, is remaining neutral.

Wrenn and Ellis were in Washington Monday meeting with Charles Black, Kemp's pollster. State Rep. Ray Warren, R-Mecklenburg, a major Kemp backer, said he didn't expect Dole's campaigning to have much of an impact on the Kemp campaign in the state. He did acknowledge her popularity in the state.

"In the end, the name on the ballot is not going to be Liddy Dole, it will be Bob Dole, and I don't know how much of that is going to transfer," he said. "I'm glad it's him and not her on the ballot."

Elizabeth Dole is a popular campaigner. She's made several campaign visits to North Carolina over the years. In the 1986 campaign she came to North Carolina several times to campaign for Republicans — particularly for Broyhill.

She is one of the most sought-after speakers in the Reagan cabinet.

Since the 1984 Republican National Convention, both Doles have joked about a "Dole-Dole" presidential ticket.

A regular line in Bob Dole's campaign appearances with his wife is: "I've been for a Dole-Dole ticket just for economy purposes. We could have one house, one limousine, and one airplane."

In Wisconsin, Vice-President George Bush said he wasn't worried about her campaigning skills.

"Listen, have you met my wife? She's good, she's tough, she's able. I have a secret weapon on myself," Bush told reporters.

U.S. Rep. Howard Coble of Greensboro, one of Bush's North Carolina campaign chairmen, wasn't as blasé.

He said Elizabeth Dole's full-

time efforts in the South are going to make it tough for the vice-president. "It doesn't help anything, that's for sure," Coble said.

"I was over at the vice-president's house last week, and I told him I was going to be candid with him," Coble said. "I think Dole is probably the front-runner in North Carolina and no small part of that is Elizabeth — she is highly respected and highly loved throughout the state."

But he quickly, and emphatically, added, "I still believe Bush will be our nominee."

In a letter to Reagan, Elizabeth Dole said the decision to leave the Cabinet came "after considerable soul-searching," but added that "the need to elect a successor who can build on your administration's remarkable record of achievement has persuaded me to leave office at this time."

Reagan called her "invaluable" but said he understood why she was leaving.

Her departure creates a major Cabinet vacancy with only 16 months left in Reagan's term.

The Transportation Department has been in the spotlight amid rising complaints from airline travelers and concerns about air safety. Her resignation comes only a few months after a change in leadership at the Federal Aviation Administration, part of her department.

She holds a law degree from Harvard University and became transportation secretary in 1983.

replacing Drew Lewis. At the time she was a special assistant to President Reagan for public liaison. She also had been the first woman to head a branch of armed services — the U.S. Coast Guard.

She has a long record of government service, starting in the 1960s as a staff assistant in the former Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Later she worked as legislative assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson's consumer affairs adviser and then as executive director of the President's Commission on Consumer Interest. In 1973, she was appointed to the Federal Trade Commission.

Two years later she married Sen. Bob Dole, after his divorce from his first wife.

In 1979, she resigned from the trade commission to campaign in her husband's unsuccessful bid for the 1980 Republican presidential nomination.

After he dropped out of the race, she worked for the Reagan campaign.

She attracted criticism in recent months over handling of dramatic changes in the airline industry.

She has tried to tighten the department's scrutiny of air carriers, called for more air traffic controllers, and pressured airlines to ease the delay problem.

An early name to surface as a possible successor is Patricia Goldman, a moderate Republican who is vice-chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

She holds a law degree from Harvard University and became transportation secretary in 1983.

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