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6A THE WICHITA EAGLE-BEACON

The Dole announcement

Sunday, November 8, 1987

SUNDAY Sunday, November 8, 1987 Bob Dole dwells on roots Announcement set for Russell

By Al Polczynski
Staff Writer

RUSSELL — Marge Kercher distinctly recalls someone telling her, when she volunteered to help Bob Dole run for Congress in 1960, that his goal was to be president.

"So that has not changed," the Russell homemaker said. But as surely as fall follows summer across these brown and jade-tinted flatlands of western Kansas, folks in his hometown say the seasons have weathered Bob Dole in a way that delights his friends and confuses his critics.

"Who in their wildest dream would ever think he would go this far, but I'm glad he is. We're going to pull for him all the way," said Cindy Weimaster, a Russell businesswoman who worked on Dole's first campaign for Congress in 1960.

On the campaign trail today Kansas see a sharp contrast to the caustic Dole of the 1960s and 1970s. He talks more of his growing-up years in Kansas and his return to Russell to recover from the World War II injuries that left his right arm virtually useless. His new campaign video borrows the Kansas state motto, "To the stars through difficulties," as its title.

ALL THIS leaves Kansans wondering what brought about the change and how much Kansas does matter to Bob Dole now. Is it political expedience dictated by presidential ambition that leads him to say in his video that "Bob Dole's America begins in Russell"?

• DOLE, 6A, Col. 1

Russell supporters say Dole hasn't forgotten roots

• DOLE, from 1A

OR IS Dole displaying his own confidence in who he is and where he came from when he harks back to western Kansas in his stump speeches?

Sure, says Kenny Dole, his older brother does not return to Russell often. Now a visit from the senator is a once- or twice-a-year occurrence, especially since their parents died. Their mother, Bina, died in 1983, and their father, Doran, in 1975.

"But I never hear him on TV or radio when he's talking about himself that he doesn't mention Russell at least once," said the younger Dole, who is an independent oil lease broker in Russell.

On Monday, Dole reaches down to his roots again to tap the warmth and openness of his hometown, strengths that have carried him through several crises in his life — personal and political. Weather permitting, at 9 a.m. he will mount a stage in the center of Russell, not far from where he stood in 1980, and proclaim his pursuit of the presidency.

In an editorial last week, Russell Daily News Publisher Russell Townsley said: "Skeptics ask what can Bob Dole — or Russell — hope to gain from this public show and professionally staged rally. And this is where skeptics find themselves traveling blind. There's no need to look for ulterior motives, for there are none.

"Dole and his town gain from each other. While one draws on unseen reserves that have nurtured him from childhood, the other grows strong from the aura reflected from the image of leadership and stature borne by the other."

LEROY FOOTE knew Dole and his family before they both worked in the Russell County Courthouse. Foote as the custodian and Dole as county attorney in the 1950s. Like Dole, Foote has a crippled right hand, but his handicap is the result of boyhood infantile paralysis, not war injuries.

"Bob's a busy man, but in the back of his mind, he likes his hometown. He has not forgotten us in Russell," Foote said.

When Dole became President Gerald Ford's running mate in 1976 and the two came to Russell for a courthouse lawn cookout, Dole walked over to Foote and said, "I remember when you made more money than I did, and we were both underpaid." Foote said he earned \$250 a month at the time, and Dole was paid \$225 by the county, although he supplemented that salary with his private law practice.



Sen. Bob Dole sneaks in after arriving late for a presidential candidates forum Saturday in Des Moines. Already seated are fellow Republicans Rep. Jack Kemp, left, and Pete du Pont.

Foote, 72, who's now retired, said Dole cannot forget how the townspeople raised money to pay for surgery after he returned from the war.

"Just the thought of that group who helped him get where he is made him cry," Foote said. Democratic State Chairman Jim Parrish of Topeka said he thinks that Dole "is trying to become more accepted among compassionate-thinking people." But Parrish finds it hard to trust the Dole who waged such a harsh campaign against Rep. Bill Roy in 1974.

Roy came within a whisker of unseating the first-term senator. Roy, who has returned to his medical practice in Topeka, thinks Dole has changed. He recalled meet-

ing Dole at the funeral of Rep. Keith Sebelius in Norton a few years ago. Roy told Dole he was doing a good job in the Senate.

"YOU MIGHT have expected the old Dole to say, 'Then maybe I'm doing the wrong thing.' But he said something to the effect of, 'You had something to do with that; I found out in '74 and '76 that if I didn't change my ways I wasn't going anywhere,'" Roy said.

"I'm not totally positive about Bob Dole, but I'm an optimist. I have hopes. There's a real chance that he'd made a good president." And Roy added, "It would take a rather hard-

hearted Kansan not to think he (Dole) would be good for Kansas."

Parrish, however, said that despite Dole's leadership positions in the Senate, he "failed to go to the mat and fight hard for Kansas and the farmers; he only paid them lip service."

His criticism is echoed by Steven Anderson, spokesman for the American Agriculture Movement in Kansas. Anderson contends that Dole "seemed to forget where he came from." He cites recent news stories about Dole's assistance for Southern tobacco farmers and a major tax break for speculators on the Chicago Board of Trade.

"He should support wheat farmers as well as tobacco farmers," he said.

Anderson once supported Dole in his early campaigns, but now says, "He's changed. He's not the same Bob Dole who represented us before."

That is a charge that can be, and frequently is, leveled at any presidential candidate, countered Doyle Rahjes, president of the Kansas Farm Bureau in Manhattan. Rahjes said Dole was the prime moving force behind the 1985 farm bill that gives billions of federal dollars to farm programs.

"THERE'S NO question that it is not everything to everybody," Rahjes said, "but he has seen to it that many, many dollars come back to farmers."

"Sure, there are things we disagree about, but Bob Dole knows Kansas. It would seem to me that we in Kansas, whether we're Democrat or Republican, have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have a Kansan who has demonstrated leadership in the White House."

The changes that have manifested themselves in the new Dole have made a believer out of Republican National Committeeman Jack Ranson of Wichita.

In 1980, Ranson was Republican state chairman but already was committed to former Gov. John Connally of Texas. Today, he is one of Dole's ardent supporters.

"His wasn't a credible candidacy then; it is now," Ranson said. "He's got the physical strength. He's got the mental work habits. He knows government. He has a much stronger organization. He's perfectly positioned and picking up support every day."

National polls generally show Dole a strong second behind Vice President George Bush. Most put him ahead of Rep. Jack Kemp of New York, the Rev. Pat Robertson, former Delaware Gov. Pete du Pont and Gen. Alexander Haig.

No room at Russell inns, but there's a fresh coat of paint

By Al Polczynski
Staff Writer

RUSSELL — What's Bob Dole done for Russell lately?

"Quite a lot, really," answered local clothier Dean Banker. "They painted the old Monte Carlo Motel, something they haven't done in 40 years."

The Monte Carlo, at the corner of U.S. 40 and 281, is the oldest operating motel in Russell. It has been in business for 49 years, but its upkeep was neglected for years.

Several of its 31 rooms have not been rented for at least five years. Now the white frame structure has been rushed into a state of readiness to handle the critical demand for rooms this weekend as visitors descend on the western Kansas town to hear Dole announce his candidacy for president on Monday.

"It isn't the Holiday Inn, but it's clean," said the Monte Carlo's new owner, Christine Freeman.

Rooms at the modern Russell's Inn and Winchester Inn were reserved long ago, but their 113 rooms stretched only so far among hundreds of requests.

Workers still were dabbing white paint on awnings of windows facing the central courtyard of the Monte Carlo late Friday. One whole side of the building facing north had been scraped but lacked a coat of fresh paint.

Among the guests who will occupy the rooms this weekend are members of the news media, former Lt. Gov. Shelby Smith of Wichita and Bill Wohlford, a former aide to Dole.

They may be surprised to find the rooms do not have dial telephones. Freeman thinks the motel

has the only PBX system around that's still operating. A guest picks up the phone in the room and tells the operator in the motel office the number he wants to call. The operator dials the number from an ancient switchboard.

Some rooms boast new linoleum on the floors, new water heaters and all but one unit has a color television set. All units will have bathrooms that work and "no bugs," Freeman promised.

Rooms will rent for \$18 a single and \$45 for up to four people. Extra roomers will be charged \$5 each.

Freeman, who took over the motel in September, said the original plan was to have it open next weekend when the pheasant hunting season opens. The Dole announcement advanced her plans by one week.



Sharon Hughes paints a sign on a Russell window where Sen. Bob Dole will announce his candidacy for the presidency Monday.

A Very Special THANK YOU to

- Mayor Randy Mai and the City of Russell
- Russell Chamber of Commerce
- Police Departments of Russell, Great Bend and Hays
- U.S.D. No. 407 Administrators, Teachers and Students
- Russell County Republican Central Committee
- United Telephone System of Kansas
- Russell Daily News Russell Record
- Russell's Inn
- KRSL KCAY Radio
- KOOD TV-9
- Marmie Motors Ford
- Ambassadors From Russell and Hays
- Russell Fourth Graders
- Krug Feed & Supply
- Bill Hopper Ford, Inc.
- Russ Harvey Auto Plaza
- Russell City Hospital
- Russell High School Band and Bronco Pops Choir
- Great Bend High School Marching Band
- Kennedy Middle School Marching Band, Hays
- St. John's Military Academy Marching Band, Salina
- Law Enforcement Officials From Russell County, Barton County, Ellis County, Kansas Highway Patrol and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation
- To All the Poster Painters
- Banner Hangers Nail Drivers and Bleacher Haulers, as Well as the Many, Many Friends
- Too Numerous to Mention Who Made This Announcement Event Possible

Senator Bob Dole



1988 Presidential Announcement

Eighth and Main Streets
Russell, Kansas

Monday,
November 9, 1987
7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Committee Chairmen

- Event Coordinators Larry Ehrlich
Tish Rogers
- Ambassadors Everett L. Dumler
- Balloons Carol Dawson
- Banners Dr. C. A. Raben
- Children's Posters Art Priddy
- Decorations Kay Homewood
- Food Dorothy Ruby
- Music Steven Lueth
- Military Sgt. James Godfrey
- Physical Arrangements Mike Bair
- Posters Derril Castor
- Staff Office Wayne Briscoe
- Transportation Robert McCurdy
- Programs Allan D. Evans
David A. Evans



Special Services

- Robert L. Earnest
- Ed Bradford
- Harry L. Hunsley
- Dr. Marcel A. Kuhn
- Nancy Michaelis
- Pete Williams
- Roger W. Williams
- Blaine Stoppel
- Sue Covalt
- Russell T. Townsley
- Kenneth D. and Anita Dole

Program

- Opening Entertainment
Great Bend High School Marching Band
Russell High School Bronco Pops Choir
- Opening Remarks by David C. Owen
General Finance Chairman,
Dole for President Committee
- Pledge of Allegiance
Warren J. Cooksey,
Past Department Vice-Commander
of The American Legion
- Invocation by Pastor Vern Bowers
Trinity United Methodist Church
- Introduction of Dignitaries
Russell T. Townsley
Publisher Russell Daily News/Record
- Remarks by Larry D. Ehrlich
Russell County Republican Chairman
- Remarks by Congressman Pat Roberts
Kansas First Congressional District
- Remarks by Governor Mike Hayden
State of Kansas
- Introduction of
Senator Robert J. Dole
Elizabeth H. Dole
Robin Dole
- Presentation of the "Cigar Box"
by G. B. "Bub" Dawson, Close Friend
and Former Co-Owner of Dawson's
Drug Store
- "God Bless America"
Russell School Children
- Remarks by Marie Boyd
Wife of the Late McDill "Huck" Boyd,
Republican National Committeeman
of Kansas
- Remarks by Senator Nancy Kassebaum
- Presidential Announcement
Senator Robert J. Dole
- Conclusion

PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT