

296. 1987

6A THE WICHITA EAGLE-BEACON

## SUNDAY Sunday, November 8, 1987 **Bob Dole dwells on roots**

### Announcement set for Russell

By Al Polczinski  
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 he hasn't 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 Kansans 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

## The Dole announcement **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, Blina, 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 travelling 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 Foote, Dole 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.

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 accessible to the people of this state." 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 wrong thing," Roy said. "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 make 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 critic is Tom Steyer, 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 Rajeh, president of the Kansas Farm Bureau in Manhattan. Rajeh 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," Rajeh said, "but he has seen to it that many dollars come to Kansas."

"Sure, there are things we disagreed 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.

"He 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.



Associated Press  
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.

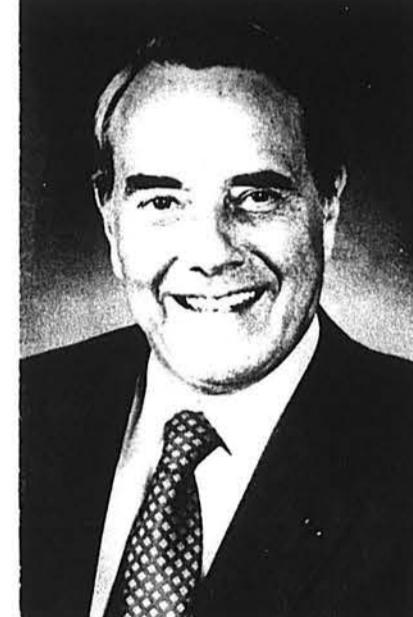


United Press International  
Sharon Hughes paints a sign on a Russell window where Sen. Bob Dole will announce his candidacy for the presidency Monday.

### 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  
KRLS KCAY Radio  
KOOD TV-9  
Marmie Motors Ford  
Ambassadors From Russell and Hays  
Russell Fourth Graders  
Krueger 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. Roben

Children's Posters ..... Art Priddy

Decorations ..... Key Homewood

Food ..... Dorothy Ruby

Music ..... Steven Lueth

Military ..... Sgt. James Godfrey

Physical Arrangements ..... Mike Bair

Posters ..... Derril Costor

Staff Office ..... Wayne Briscoe

Transportation ..... Robert McCurdy

Programs ..... Allan D. Evans

..... David A. Evans

### 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

Introduction of  
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