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Joel Sartore/Staff Photographer

Sen. Bob Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, sign autographs after a family reunion Sunday in Russell.

## Russell bustles with celebration

By Angela Herrin  
Of our Washington bureau

RUSSELL — By the time the band swung into a hot rendition of "Blue Suede Shoes" over at the VFW Hall on Sunday night, it was clear that Russell had decided it was time to get down and celebrate.

"Bob Dole is running for president. We're having a ball," announced Donna Dawson. "He's the one who works so hard, and now we're gonna celebrate it."

The party at VFW Post 6240 on Sunday night was billed as "a mixer," mixing up the media, congressmen and campaign aides and townspeople who all had congregated here on this cold, windy weekend in preparation for Dole's formal announcement this morning of his bid for the presidency.

Almost every Russell resident at the party had some volunteer hand in the festivities,

Dole's family enjoys spotlight, 4A

from hauling luggage for out-of-town dignitaries to cooking up huge pans of barbecue and beans that were dished out to the crowd.

Don Reinhardt was busy shaking hands, accepting compliments for his feat of plowing the slogan "Dole '88" in letters 9 acres high in his wheatfield.

"We all wanted to make a contribution, but with farming depressed, I can't give a lot money. So I thought I'd get on my tractor," Reinhardt said.

In another corner, Bill Morris was showing off a button that sported a minimap of Kansas, with a battery-powered light depicting Russell, blinking on and off.

"When you go somewhere, it's so hard to tell them that you're from Bob Dole's hometown

and then try to explain where Russell is," Morris said.

Earlier in the day, local residents gathered on dusty Main Street to watch TV crews and workers set up bleachers and test the sound equipment for the announcement.

"Everybody's wanted to have a hand in this — it's history in the making," said Jeral Krug. Meanwhile, volunteers were distributing "hospitality packages" to the motel rooms of visiting reporters, a selection that boasted packets of "prairie nuggets," (roasted wheat kernels); business brochures, and stickers that proclaimed: "Do It In Russell."

"We're doing this, yes, for Bob, but also for Russell," said Brad Seibel, president of the Russell Chamber of Commerce. "It's bigger than party politics."

Staff writer Sylvia Adcock contributed to this report.

THE WICHITA EAGLE-BEACON Monday, November 9, 1987

## Dole's relatives enjoy time in spotlight

### Help, praise is doled out by family

By Al Polczynski  
Staff Writer

RUSSELL — At times like these, Gloria Nelson finds it exciting to be a member of the Dole family. Nelson, Sen. Bob Dole's older sister, is enjoying the attention Russell and its people are getting from the nation's news media as her famous brother begins his formal run for the Republican nomination for president.

"Right now, yes, it's exciting," Nelson said during an interview in the attractive, modest home she and her husband, Larry, a retired oil pipeline company employee, share on the city's west side.

There have been times, however, when people who disagreed with a position taken by Dole have made life unpleasant for her or other members of the family.

"Kenny gets much more of that than I do. He can tell you that they'll come at you like that," she said, making a chopping motion with both hands.

KENNY DOLE, the senator's younger brother, is an independent oil lease broker. "That's about as close to being unemployed as you can get," he said, explaining that the oil business is almost in a holding pattern because of the surplus of oil on the world market.

He gets tired of questions from reporters who want to know what his brother "really is like."

"Half of our lifetime we haven't been together, so what do I know?" he said.

Younger than the senator by 14 months, Kenny Dole said his brother had his friends and he had his own.

He talks in rapid-fire bursts. Standing on the front porch of his red brick home, he said the Dole brothers worked hard at odd jobs to help the family earn money during the lean years, before World War II took both boys into military service.

"BOB ENLISTED," he said. "I was drafted. We both took basic



Mike Hubmacher/Staff Photographer

Sen. Bob Dole waves to supporters near the soda fountain counter, right, behind which he once worked.

training at Camp Barkley near Abilene in Texas. He went to Europe. I went to the South Pacific.

"For both of us, that was our first bus ride, our first train ride and our first plane ride."

Kenny Dole said he thinks his brother would make a good president.

"Undoubtedly. People would get their money's worth. He gives it all he's got."

In the "last will and testament" of the class of 1941 at Russell High School, is a reference to Dole's bashfulness.

"Yes, he was a little shy," said Nelson, "but he didn't have time for girls. He couldn't afford girls. He was busy with sports and he

worked."

Despite his shyness with girls, her brother always had a lot of friends, said Norma Jean Steele of Derby. She is the youngest of the four Dole children and four years younger than the senator.

SHE WAS the only child at home when Bob Dole, severely wounded, came back from World War II. A teleprinter operator at Western Union at the time, she recalled, she went with her father to Winter Veterans Hospital in Topeka on weekends to relieve her mother who stayed with the injured Dole during the week.

"He cut up a lot, but he is more the serious type, all business," Steele said.

What about that mean streak that people have seen the senator exhibit at times?

"I don't know about that. That's not the Bob we know. He's got a lot of compassion," Nelson said.

Nelson had been making a big pot of chicken soup for company when she was interrupted for the interview Sunday morning.

As she spoke, her aunt Mildred Nye from Harper and Sheryl Henke, the senator's niece from Wichita, arrived. Both bubbled with enthusiasm and pride over the senator's success.

Cooking and baking had kept Nelson busy the past several days. If the senator doesn't gain weight while he's at home prepar-

ing for the announcement of his candidacy today, it won't be the fault of his friends and relatives.

For a private family potluck dinner Sunday afternoon that ballooned into an event attended by more than 275 people at the county's 4-H building, Nelson had prepared 40 pounds of ham loaf.

"He likes ham loaf," she said, "and you hear a lot about how he likes chicken. But another favorite of his is liver and onions. You don't hear much about that."

"And I just finished making homemade ice cream. He likes vanilla with hot fudge topping, the kind made with corn starch like mother made."