

# Good Guy, Fine Man

By ALBERT LIN  
John Brown of Gorham attended Sunday School classes with Bob Dole and graduated in Russell High School's Class of 1941 with him. He remembers Dole as having a sociable personality.

Brown said that in Sunday School, "The teacher could never get our attention. We were always visiting with each other, and just having a good time, generally."

However, he said none of the students in the Sunday School class were mean or rascally, and that Dole today is a "good guy, fine man."

Brown said that when Dole was in high school, "I think he had a knack for meeting people. To this day, he's always ready with a wise-crack."

Dole is still good at meeting people, Brown said.

"He's not your 'hail-fellow-well-met' type of guy, but he meets people well, I think," Brown said.

Brown said he never got the impression in high school that Dole might become president someday, but that today Dole has the qualifications.



JOHN BROWN

"He's got the experience," Brown said. "I think he's the best candidate we have in view."



**BOB DOLE SIGN** — This new Bob Dole sign welcoming people to Russell was recently erected on the east side of U.S. Highway 281 several miles south of Russell. Others are located on the east and west entrances to Russell on Interstate 70, and north of Russell on U.S. Highway 281. (Staff Photo)

# Learned Leadership In Italy in WWII

By MATT O'DONNELL  
Dean Banker remembers back when Bob Dole seemed shy and less than resilient when speaking in front of crowds.

"As he progressed in his political field, he overcame that natural fear," said Banker, the co-owner of Russell's 115-year-old clothing store on Eighth and Main Streets. "He became Bob Dole."

Banker said that he thinks that Dole learned to become a leader while in Italy during World War II and was wounded.

"The number one thing is that I admire him so much as a leader," Banker said. "To put his hat in the ring once again is tremendous. Just to get the chance to vote for him is something special."

Banker, two years behind Dole at Russell High School, said he did not have much contact with the future presidential candidate while they were in high school.

"Sophomores didn't talk to seniors very much," Banker mused. "I really didn't get to know him until he became county attorney."

However, Banker was in the same graduating class with Dole's



DEAN C. BANKER

softened his image," he said. "But that's all right. It's a learning process."

Banker went on to say that Dole is "a man of a high amount of compromise, and compromise is not a bad word in politics."

On the subject of preparedness, Banker calls Dole a voracious reader and someone who does not take another's word for granted.

"He knows that when you present a case in court, that you do your homework, and he does."

When Dole has frequently visited Russell in the past, Banker said they usually don't talk politics but do quite a bit of joking around together. The same should hold true when Dole visits Russell April 15.

## In Center of State

sister, Norma Jean, and Dole's brother, Kenny. Kenny Dole died in 1993.

Banker has noticed the subtle change in Dole's public appearance over the last time he ran for president.

"There's no question that he's

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