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ALL SMILES, Bob Dole is sporting his senior graduation suit as he poses on the front porch of the Dole home with his mother Bina, in back, and his sister Gloria.



THE DOLE FAMILY in Kansas City, Kan., where they were visiting Doran R. Dole, who was a patient at the KU Medical Center in November 1975. Front, from left, are Anita (Mrs. Kenneth) Dole, Bina Dole, Elizabeth and Bob Dole, and, back row, Kenneth Dole, Norma Jean and Tommy Steele, and Gloria Nelson. Bina Dole, Kenneth Dole and Tommy Steele are now deceased. Norma Jean Steele recently returned to Russell from Derby and has made her home here.

Hawkins Ascribes Dole As Son of Kansas Soil

By WEBSTER HAWKINS
Osawatimie Graphic

OSAWATOMIE — This community newspaper editor and publisher, who has spent more than half a century in the business, remembers well hearing the name "Bob Dole" in 1947 shortly upon his arrival in Russell. It was in Dawson's Drug Store—at the famed coffee counter.

But Bob Dole wasn't there; he was still in an Army hospital recovering from wounds he had received a couple of years earlier in Italy.

But this politician—in the finest sense of the word—is now coming home again to Russell. For the third time, he will announce that he is running for president of the United States. It is the most honored and powerful job in the nation.

Not bad for the son of a small town creamery operator who lived north of the railroad tracks.

At this point most political experts will tell you, if pressed, Dole is the most likely person to next occupy the White House at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

How and why this son-of-poor parents reached this pinnacle is no puzzle to those who know him.

I don't remember the first time I met Bob Dole. It was either while he represented Russell in the Kansas Legislature or in the county attorney's office.

Like many of his friends in his home town, I have always respected him for his integrity, ability and drive. And yes, ambition.

I marveled, for instance, at how hard he worked in the county attorney's office. He always seemed to be busy, even though sometimes it was work for his Republican Party. He was highly thought of by his fellow workers in the Court-house because they knew they could count on him.

Bob and I were in the noon Kiwanis Club for years. For a long time, as I remember, he was chairman of the program committee. Or at least he introduced the speakers.

Like all civic clubs, we Kiwanians were always looking for good programs. And of course we didn't have any money.

Because of my job as news editor at The Russell Daily News, I read or scanned numerous newspapers. I watched for stories about what other clubs were doing for programs. Often these programs would be available to us.

When I saw something of interest, I called Bobbie Lyons, the secretary in the county attorney's office. She and Dole would then make contact.

I am relating this because, looking back, we Kiwanians could see this future leader blossom. His quick wit was developed during these years, I'm sure.

Quite often, Bob's remarks at the

opening or closing of the program were far more entertaining than the program itself. As time went by, Kiwanians looked forward to his introductions and closings.

Among some across this land, Bob is looked upon as a person with a cranky disposition. We who saw him develop, of course, know that isn't true at all.

I had a political writer for The Kansas City Star call not long ago and this disposition of Bob's was the main focus of the interview. I told him I never had seen this side of him in all the years we have been friends. Perhaps, I said, in his duties leading the United States Senate or running the errands in

that body for a Republican president, he may have been critical now and then.

"My guess," I told the reporter, was "if this impression prevails at all, it is because of television film clips that flash for just 30 seconds or less on the screen and then disappear."

This man should be the nation's next president, for the sake of the country. I have always thought the nation suffered because George Bush upset him in the GOP primary some six years ago.

Bush and Clinton are no match for this son of the Kansas soil. But, of course, thousands of Russell Countians know that.



FRANK CARLSON, Concordia, was among Republican leaders of Kansas who spotted Bob Dole as a comer at an early age and helped guide his political career. Dole, having completed four terms as a congressman from the sprawling Western Kansas District, first ran for the Senate

in 1968 when Carlson retired after 18 years as a Kansas senator. Dole was re-elected to the Senate in 1974, 1980, 1986 and 1992. Carlson is the only Kansan to have served as governor, congressman and United States senator.



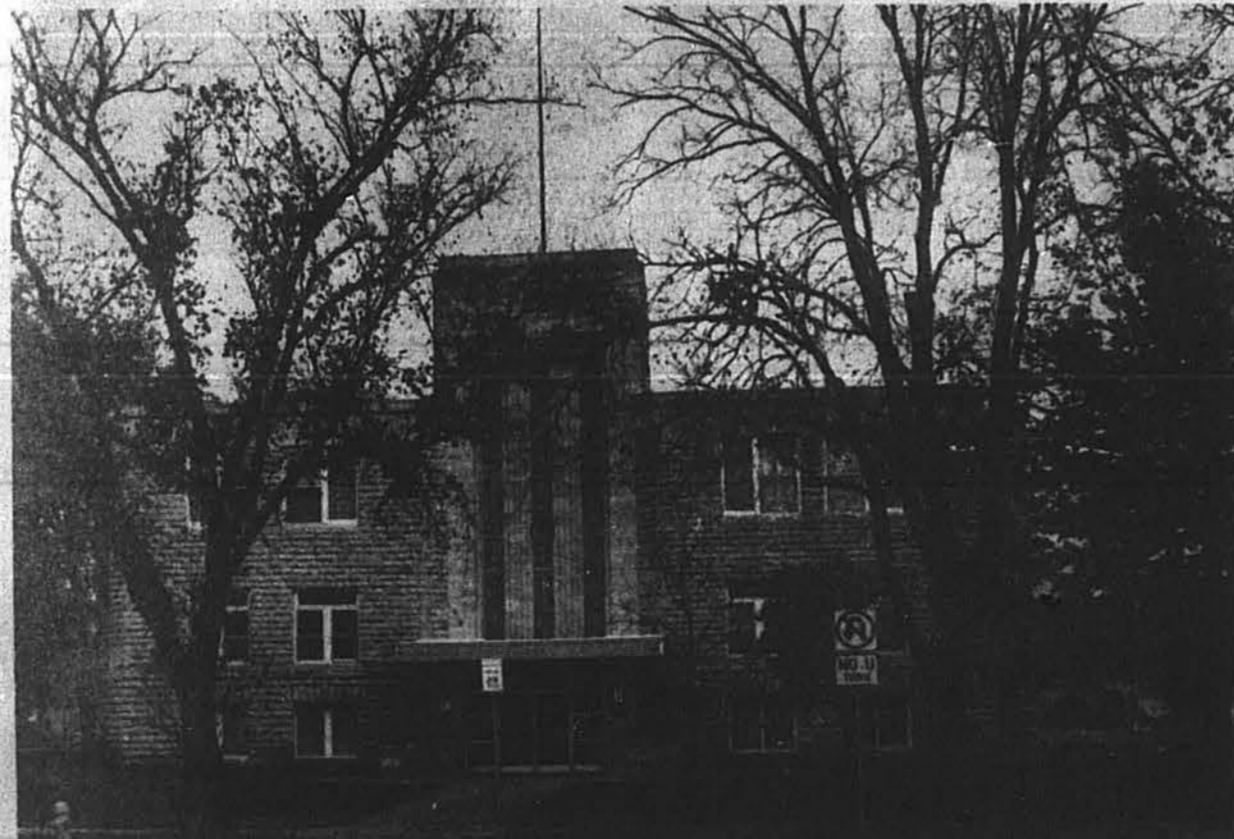
A MEMBER OF CONGRESS — Bob Dole stands in front of the seal of the United States Congress. He was first elected to Congress in 1960 and was re-elected for three additional terms. The lady is not known.

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RUSSELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE — Bob Dole started his first term as attorney of Russell County in this building in 1953. He continued there for four terms, until 1961, when he became a United

States congressman. His office was on the second floor, to the far left of the entrance. Dole put in long hours during his terms as county attorney and the lights burned late at night. (Staff Photo)

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