

FRIDAY ■ APRIL 14, 1995 ■ THE HAYS DAILY NEWS

Dole supporters greet their man



Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, react this morning after a Russell street was renamed Bob Dole Drive.

CHARLIE RIEDEL
Hays Daily News



CHARLIE RIEDEL / Hays Daily News

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., greets Theresa Frazier of Russell after speaking to a hometown crowd this morning as he wrapped up his presidential campaign tour.

Presidential candidate comes home

By KEVIN ANDERSON
Hays Daily News

RUSSELL — For Sen. Bob Dole, the bottom line for the pancake breakfast this morning at the VFW post in Russell was to say thank you.

And the people of Russell returned the gratitude by donating \$7,000 to his campaign and unveiling a historical marker that commemorates the near-fatal wounds the senator suffered during World War II — 50 years ago today.

By 8 a.m., when the breakfast was to begin, a line of people already stretched for 30 feet in front of the door to the VFW building.

Richard Killian had invited a war-time friend to "join him for pancakes with Bob Dole."

Killian made the invitation to Alfred Knight as something of a joke, seeing as Knight would have to travel from his home in San Antonio to attend the breakfast.

But Knight made trip of more than 800 miles because "I had to meet the next president," he said.

The senator arrived at about 9:30, greeting people as they stood in line for pancakes, signing autographs and calling friends by name.

Security was tight at the event, with Kansas Highway Patrol cars located at key intersections near the VFW building and security personnel working against the crush of anxious onlookers and members of the press as Dole greeted the crowd.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 attended the dedication of the historical marker and Dole's speech that followed.

Before Dole's speech, Russ Townsley, who introduced the speakers and senator, told the story of how the town had collected money in cigar boxes to help pay for the surgery to rebuild Dole's shoulder and arm, shattered by Nazi bullets in the waning days of the war.

And then Townsley presented Dole with a wooden "cigar box," which he said contained more than \$7,000 for the senator's presidential campaign, collected in the last 48 hours.

During the speech, Dole remarked, "People have been my strength."

As he scanned the crowd, he said he saw many people who remind him of a "one little

chapter in my life."

He picked out Bub Dawson, whose father owned the drugstore where Dole worked as a teenager, and Adolph Reisig, who played football with the senator during high school.

And he recalled how George Deines had loaned him \$300 to attend college.

Showing little fatigue from his 10-state, week-long announcement tour, Dole seemed energized by the hometown crowd, his words sounding more like a traditional stump speech than his oration Monday in Topeka in which he outlined his platform and broad goals.

Touching on the importance of Russell to him, Dole said, "I know where to go home to and where I belong."

After outlining how the values small-town life had instilled in him, he spoke little of policy but more of a strong belief in the country and its people.

"America is the greatest place on earth, and I want to keep it that way for our children and our grandchildren," Dole said.

He also spoke vaguely to his frontrunner status in the race and his chances for winning, saying, "It feels different this time."

In his self-deprecating style, he spoke of his past bids for the GOP

nomination, saying how in 1988, "he was elected president of Iowa" only to lose in New Hampshire.

But Dole said, the "political earthquake in November provided another opportunity to lead." And he repeated emphatically one lesson he has learned: "Never give up, never give up, never give up," the intensity increasing with each repetition.

It's unbelievable for Russell resident Fritz Waymaster that "I know somebody of (Dole's) stature on a first-name basis, and he knows me on a first-name basis."

Commenting on the energy of the speech, Waymaster said, "He gets very emotional when he comes to Russell."

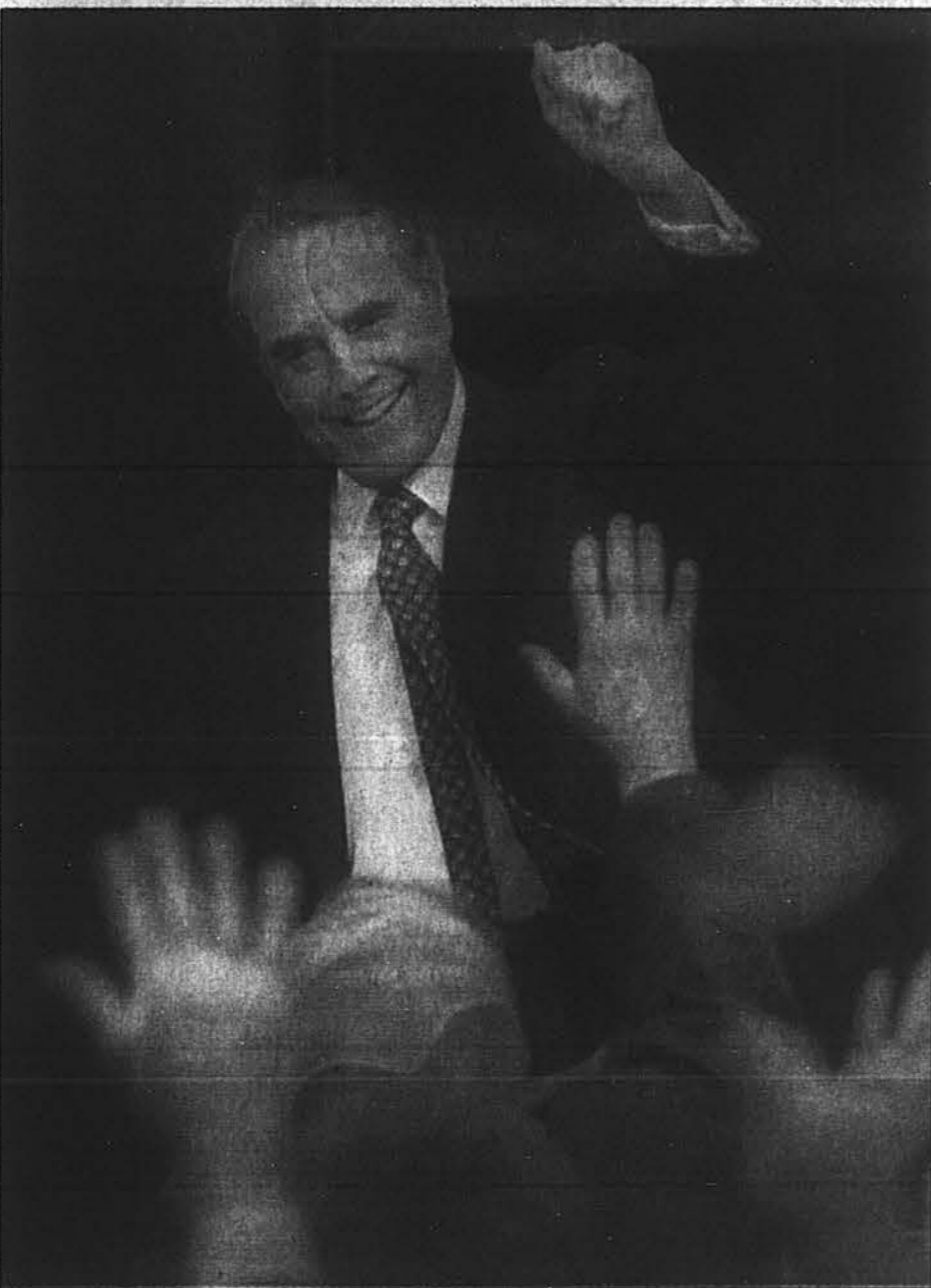
Dole left the stage to greet the crowd before attending a community Good Friday service.

He was scheduled to spend the remainder of the day resting and visiting with family. Saturday he tapes a segment of NBC's "Meet the Press" at Russell's Ruppenthal Middle School.



LEFT: Brian Noller, 4, Russell, watches as Dole speaks. BELOW: Dole gestures to supporters before his speech.

CHARLIE RIEDEL, left, and STEVEN HAUSLER, below, Hays Daily News



Cross-country travelers, acquaintances, fans greet Doles at Hays airport

By KEVIN ANDERSON
Hays Daily News

RUSSELL — Francis McElroy was driving on Interstate 70 when he heard the announcement that Sen. Bob Dole would be landing at the Hays Municipal Airport in a half hour.

He pulled off the highway, asked for directions at the nearest gas station and drove to the airport.

Although he and his wife, Frances, were on

their way from Reno, Nev., to their home in St. Johnsbury, Vt., they took a break because "we want to see the person who will hopefully be our next president."

The McElroys joined between 30 and 40 people from Hays and Russell to greet Dole upon his arrival as he ended his week-long presidential announcement tour.

Everett Dumler of Russell came to drive Dole and his wife from the airport to his

hometown for a private dinner with the senator's family.

But as Dumler said, "(Dole campaign officials) always said at the end of the meetings that this is all subject to change."

And the crowd was left waiting for more than an hour as Dole's plane was an hour behind schedule flying from North Carolina.

But the enthusiasm of the crowd was not diminished, especially when he casually min-

gled with the crowd before leaving for Russell. As Dole's plane landed about 6:15, the crowd pressed close behind a stand of television cameras and photographers.

After members of Dole's staff exited the plane, the senator appeared and the crowd cheered. They broke through the line of photographers as Dole moved to greet them.

DOLE / See page 2

■ If GOP Sen. Bob Dole is elected president next year, will his wife, Elizabeth Hanford Dole, resign from her \$185,000-a-year job as Red Cross chief?

John Salvin, Branford, Conn.

Maybe not. She isn't quitting to campaign, though she left two past jobs, including a Cabinet post, to support her husband's bids for the White House in 1976 and '88. She plans to take unpaid leave for brief trips, such as for this week's launch of his '96 effort. If Dole, 71, wins, his wife, a 58-year-old Harvard lawyer whom he calls a "sensible feminist," might become a truly modern first lady in that she could hold a job outside the White House.

USA Weekend 4/14-16/95



The Doles, campaigning in 1988

Hutchinson News Friday, April 14, 1995



Associated Press photo

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, center, sits with his wife Elizabeth, left, and Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., during a visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Columbia, S.C. on Thursday. Dole flew to his hometown of Russell, which will welcome him home today.

Russell plans a laid-back welcome home for Dole

By Lew Ferguson
Associated Press Writer

RUSSELL — Bob Dole's hometown was slicked up and awaiting the senator's arrival late Thursday, prepared to give him a low-key but warm Kansas welcome as he concluded his whirlwind presidential announcement tour.

Dole was scheduled to fly into nearby Hays about 5:20 p.m. Thursday, then be driven the 25 miles east to Russell, where he grew up and graduated from high school.

— GOLDEN GLOVES CHAMPIONSHIPS — Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Convention Hall Adv

Dole's schedule

A pancake breakfast will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. today at the Russell VFW. Sen. Bob Dole will address the crowd sometime during the morning after a dedication of a monument in his honor.

After the pancake breakfast, he will attend a community Good Friday service at the Otterbein United Methodist Church, at the corner of Sixth and Maple streets.

On Saturday, Dole will appear on NBC's Meet the Press, which will be taped in Ruppenthal Middle School. Admission is by ticket only, and all tickets have been distributed.

After the taping, Dole will return to Washington.

"Russell is all cleaned up and trimmed up," said Marcie Adler, a See DOLE, Page 2

Dole

Continued from Page 1
Russell native who works in the Senate majority leader's office in Washington. She said she took a week of vacation to come home and help plan Dole's appearances here today and Saturday.

"They have Dole for President posters all over town, and Republican headquarters has red, white and blue bunting and pictures of Sen. Dole and Sen. Specter in the window," Adler said. "It's going to be a kind of laid-back welcome home, but very genuine."

She referred to Sen. Arlen Specter,

another Russell native who also is seeking the Republican nomination for president in 1996. Specter came home to Russell two weeks ago for a similar round of visits with old friends, relatives and townspeople.

The main public event for Dole will be a pancake feed from 8 to 11 a.m. today. Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, will spend considerable time at the breakfast renewing acquaintances.

Dole is scheduled to speak sometime between 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

DOLE: A hometown welcome

Continued from page 1

Hays resident Donna Boxberger came up to Dole, gave him a hug and said to the presidential contender, "We're gonna make it this year."

Boxberger, who formerly lived in Russell, rented a home from Dole's parents.

Nancy Lundy of Hays came out to the airport with her husband, Steve, and three daughters, Valerie, Rebeckah and Rachel.

"If he becomes president, I'll think we were out here when it started," Nancy Lundy said, explaining why she came to see Dole.

In November 1987, when Dole launched his previous bid for the presidential nomination, Valerie, in fifth grade at the time, shook hands with Dole.

"I want to shake his hand again so if he wins, I can say that I shook the

hand of the president," she said.

Valerie, now 18, met and shook hands with Dole twice as he mingled informally with the crowd.

Besides members of the press, representatives from Russell and local residents who wanted a chance to meet the presidential candidate, Kansas Senate Majority Leader Jerry Moran, R-Hays, was also on hand to greet Dole.

Dole and his motorcade left for Russell by 6:30.