Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

Section 95, Pages 2821 - 2850

This is correspondence to and from newspaper editor and publisher Frederick W. Brinkerhoff. The bulk of letters date from the 1940s and 1950s, His first newspaper job was with the Ottawa Herald, after which he worked for the Fort Scott Republican, Chanute Sun, Chanute Tribune, Kansas City Star, Pittsburg Headlight, and the Pittsburg Sun. Brinkerhoff was also vice-president and a director of Stauffer Publications as well as director of Capper Publications Inc., the Topeka State Journal Company, and Newton Publishing Company. In addition, he was vice-president of the KSEK Broadcasting Company in Pittsburg. Brinkerhoff was well known as a journalist, serving as president of the Kansas Press Association in 1935 and as chairman of the Kansas Associated Press in 1946-1947. He also served as a member of the Pulitzer Prize jury for editorial writing in 1950 and 1951. In 1956, he received the William Allen White award to a Kansas editor for journalistic merit. Active in community affairs, Brinkerhoff was a member of the board of the Pittsburg Public Library, served as chairman of the Pittsburg Industrial Commission, and was on the board of directors and served a term as president of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce. He was also active in Republican party politics. Brinkerhoff was interested in the history of the state and served as president of the Kansas State Historical Society in 1944. The correspondence is arranged chronologically and grouped alphabetically by individuals with whom Brinkerhoff was in frequent contact, including Roy F. Bailey, Arthur Capper, Rolla Clymer, Harry W. Colmery, Harry Darby, Jess C. Denious, Myron George, Merl Huffman, Clyde M. Reed, Richard W. Robbins, Andrew Schoeppel, and Oscar Stauffer, among many others.

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THE EL DORADO TIMES

—MERGER OF—

WALNUT VALLEY TIMES   EL DORADO REPUBLICAN

EDITOR AND MANAGER
R. A. CLYMER

EL DORADO, KANSAS

August 30, 1949

Mr. F. W. Brinkerhoff
Pittsburg, Kansas

My Dear Fred:-
                All I can say is many, many thanks for
your wondrously kind invitation--and No.

                The manner in which affairs are piling up for me
now, I won't be free to be gone a week on September 23.
All this year we have been plagued with a printer shortage.
We have some extra business coming up for the week of the
23rd and I shall just have to be around here to supervise
its handling, under our shortened circumstances.

                I turned you down on something of this sort last
year and now I am turning you down again. I suppose that
I shall never be invited again--which serves me right. I
know of nothing that would give me greater pleasure than
to be with the Bull and you, and your gang. But I know
now that I can't, so I am getting the pain over with at
one whack.

                It was gracious of you to extend this bid and I am
more grateful than I can say. But it now seems that I
should not have allowed myself to be married to a grind-
stone.

                                Sincerely,

                                R A Clymer

Oct. 25, 1949

Rolla A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

Reed, if he runs and I think he will. If his
decision should be vetoed by the doctors, then
my disposition is to be for Harry Colmery. But
it is Reed, first last and all the time,unless
he is clear out. He is a man with mingled brains
and courage, the greatest combination Kansas has
had in Washington in my day. Furthermore, he is
my friend of long standing, he never lied to me,
he never made a promis that was as void of sincerity
as a hog is of patriotism, he has cracked me and I
have cracked him and his respect for me and my
admiration for him never depreciated. One of my
fond hopes is that Reed will run and that the Great
Realness in Wichita will run, thus making everything
nice.

I have written something on "Traveling Statesmen"
which will get in in the next few days.

                    Sincerely yours,

                    F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Oct. 27, 1949

Rolla A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

First, his age will be a bit against Reed. But you
cannot say the same things about him that we said
about Capper. Capper was about seven years older
than Reed. Need I mention the difference?

Reed as the Republican candidate would beat any Democrat
they could name. I do not look upon Georgia as a
dark threat. Reed not only can fight but he will fight.
If we happen to have somebody running who cannot fight
or will not fight, we might be in trouble.

If the Republicans do not get into the fighting mood
they might as well send for the undertaker.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

THE EL DORADO TIMES

—MERGER OF—

WALNUT VALLEY TIMES   EL DORADO REPUBLICAN

EDITOR AND MANAGER
R. A. CLYMER

EL DORADO, KANSAS
December 8, 1949

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff
c/o Headlight,
Pittsburg, Kansas

My Dear Fred:-

      Your little piece about The Times' thirty years was touched with the same sort of bounteous kindness you have always shown to me and mine. It served to brighten up the whole of a gloomy day--and once again I am more grateful than I can tell you. I shall never hope to get even with you.

      I am now trying to get my memorials ready for the KPA meeting in January. As usual, it is a heavy chore with fifty or sixty on the list again. I had 66 last year. Some will naturally be shot but I have to give special treatment to 20 or 25. I am working every evening these days. By the way, please tell me how you pronounce Cattaneo--the name of the publisher at Mulberry who died during the year. I did not know this fellow and don't want to go haywire on his name when I read what I have written about him. Thanks, too, for this favor.

Always sincerely,

R A Clymer

Dec. 9, 1949

Rolla A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

Forget it. There was a fine opportunity to mention what a
newspaper should do because you had done at the time what a
newspaper should do. El Dorado ought to be grateful to you
and I have no doubt that the community is grateful.

I sympathize with you on your task on the memorial. But the
job should be done by someone and you do it perfectly plus.

As to Cattaneo, pronounce it:

Ka-TAN-e-oh

Cattaneo was a fine young chap who got out a newspaper under
most discouraging conditions that I could imagine at Mulberry.
He was stricken with his illness and knew it was likely to be
fatal at an early date. He got on the train at Mulberry early
one morning when I was aboard, on his way to Kansas City to
consult another doctor who had given him some hope. Two or
three weeks later he was dead.

I have just written to Frank Motz in answer to a note from him
on some matters. At Kansas City he said he had not attended
the spring meetings of the AP because he did not play golf.
He had confused the spring AP meeting with the editorial golf
association. I told him about the interesting shop talk
sessions at Topeka and about the luncheon programs. I think
our Topeka meetings have been much more helpful than the joint
meetings, as a matter of fact.

Things look all right to me for Colmery. But he must not let
the idea spread that Alf Landon is going to be a big factor
in his campaign.

                                    Sincerely yours,

                                    F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

[1949]

Dear Fred:-

Okay on Reed. I feel much as you do.
But will his age be against him--and cannot his oppo-
nents say the same things we were saying against Capper
not so long ago?

Furthermore, could Reed as the Republican
nominee, beat Georgia Neese Clark should the Democrats
happen to nominate her? I have a feeling that Georgia
might raise hob with our playhouse if she got into the
race.

Would like to have your opinions on both these
subjects, which have been bothering me some.

rac

[1949]

Dear Fred:-
          I dunno why they want him--but they do.

          No dedication of a fertilizer vat, or somepin,

is deemed complete without the ☒ guv. on hand to lend

eclaw. A governor--any governor, it seems--fills the bill.

          Who, or whom, are you going to support for

senator?

                              Yours,

                                   Rac

                              rac

1949

Monday

Dear Fred:-

Here's our check in exchange for subscription--
and thanks.

Dammit, I missed you again. You were in Topeka
Thursday night and I got up there Friday night. Larry
Miller told me all about what happened at the hearing,
and I think you fellows did a great job in getting the
offensive provisions knocked out of that labor bill.
One has to exercise ceaseless vigilance these days in
order to keep the do-gooders from ham-stringing some
new feature of his business--all in the name of the
Uplift. I wish I might have had a hand in helping you
knock this little thing on its silly head.

Maybe you and I shall get a chance to see each
other one of these days--and then, I doubt not, we shall
clack Far, Far Into the Night.

Yours,

Rac

Jan. 3, 1950

Rolla A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

You overwhelm me. Nothing more gloriously nice was ever
said about a Kansan than you have said about me. This, of
course, was just the steenth plus time the thing has occurred.
Regardless of what might develop politically I want to say
this, that I would a thousand times rather be ignored or
beaten in politics and have you say the sincere things you
have said than to be elected governor by a huge majority,
with a United States senatorship just around the governor-
ship, and not have you say the things you have said. And I
might say further that I never would be interested in the
governorship or any other political office or private place
which involved any actions or attitudes that made it impossible
for my friends to look upon me as a man of character,
integrity, courage and some ability.

What I have been trying to say is that high public station
is much less to be desired than the esteem of competent
friends. That is my attitude on the governorship situation
now.

Several years before his death when a campaign was coming
up William Allen White wrote a piece about me in connection
with the governorship. He expressed much the same thought
that you have expressed with respect to office holding.
But what he said about me remains with me as yours will.
And he said at that time concerning politics practically
the same thing you have said in your editorial.

Conceivably I could be in this race. But I certainly have
no hankering for a primary campaign. The campaign in the
fall would be different. The job of the governorship would
be strenuous and heavy--as I would attempt to administer it.
There are things that should be done for Kansas without any
regard for votes for another office or votes for mother

Rolla A. Clymer--2--Jan. 3, 1950

term. Those things, according to my best judgment I
would do regardless. Kansas is entitled to have governors
of that type. Under certain circumstances--specifically
the absence of someone who can both be elected and be a
governor--I could be in. But I am right well contented
on the tripodand at peace with my family.

                    Sincerely yours,

                    F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Jan. 14, 1950

Rolla A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

I knew you would do it, I knew you would do it, I knew
you would do it. Others are doing it too.

But your attention is respectfully called to the obvious
fact that the Swede is carefully guarded on each side.

I assume you got the Congressional Record and I also assume,
in that event, that you seldom read it. On the first day
of the session Andy announced Clyde's death, several senators
spoke briefly and Andy spoke briefly and asked to print
my full address. And so it is there. Just thought maybe
you might be interested.

I planned to be in Topeka Friday for the meeting but it
rained Thursday night and was raining Friday morning and
the forecast was for freezing. So a motor trip was given
up. This decision was made partly in view of the fact
that I am suffering from a bad cold.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Jan. 26, 1950

Rolla A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

You reached another top place in your piece on Henry. It was a
beautiful thing done in characteristic Clymer manner. I have just
sent my clipping on it to Bert Miller at Battle Creek. Miller, as
you know, ran the Ottawa Herald and wrote the editorials and Henry
got the credit until the state found out about Miller. I wrote news
and when Miller was gone tried my hand at editorials in those old
days of the early part of the century.

Henry Allen took from my shaking hand the first newspaper copy I ever
produced. I was not on the staff of the Herald. I was a junior in
the Ottawa high school--when the course was three years--fresh in
from the country precincts where I was born and suddenly seized with
a desire for writing something that would be printed. I do not
remember just what was the immediate inspiration. But one day I
produced a bunch of news notes on things going on at the high school.
I went down to the Herald office with this handwritten copy. There
was no one in the front office as I recall it except a man I
immediately identified as Henry Allen. I had heard him speak out
in the country. Allen came out from behind the counter and I handed
him my copy and told him it was some news from the high school. He
took it and turned and went back to Bert Miller's desk where he
parked it as I left the office. No pride I have ever had since was
equal to that I experienced that evening when I ran through the
Herald at our home and discovered my stuff published under a 2-column
head on the most prominent or local inside page. From that time on
I was more or less on the staff of the Herald and the other paper
hastened to grab a budding journalist and obtain high school news.
I can remember back through all the years the appearance of Henry Allen
as he came from behind the counter in the old front office in which
were housed Allen's desk, the news room, the advertising department,
circulation department, the bookkeeper and a round oak stove--in a
room about 25 by 25.

I hope I will be seeing you Saturday.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls
PS I am enclosing a tearout from Bert Miller.
FWB

Feb. 15, 1950

Rolla A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

Thanks again for that generous treatment of yours.
You are right. But man it certainly is tough to take
some of the things we are swallowing now. And it is
not easy to meet the constant arguments of big and
able friends who think "Something Must Be Done."

A meeting of Young Republicans of the Third District
was set for Independence on Lincoln Day. There were
six young Republicans present. How in the world do
we expect to keep the Republican party a going
institution without recruiting young Republicans is
more than I can figure. I am pretty poor at
Mathematics but I believe I can see what inevitably
will happen. And what intelligent work is being done
to interest the younger men and women of the Republican
party?

I was in El Dorado for about five minutes Monday
afternoon. However, it was not possible to stop. I
was driving in a funeral party from Topeka to Winfield.
Mrs. Brinkerhoff's sister died suddenly in Topeka
Saturday night and the burial was in Winfield.

Thanks again for everything.

                    Sincerely yours,

                    F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Dear Fred:-
      The headline on the enclosed is a gem--and
the rest of your comment ain't bad. You never let go until
it thunders, do you? I hope to the dear Lord that you
never get on my trail for any set of sins whatever.

      Maybe you will take some savage falls out of
me because I can't persuade myself to be for Harry Colmery.
But even if you do, it would not add appreciably to the
general unhappiness that now enfolds me. Looks as if I shall
sit in a sad corner--during the campaign--with little heart
or zest for the chore of staying with some of my friends.
Not being able to be on your side is what depresses me most.
I wish I were ½-bright (as Snort Brown used to write it,)
at least bright enough to know the true answer.

      I did not expect you to come along with

-2-

Stroup yesterday, but missed you just the same. These managing and telegraph editors of the AP are taking hold of their program with a vim--and are going to give our continuing study course a great fillip--unless I miss my guess. I now believe enlisting their active and enthusiastic aid will be one of the best things the Kansas AP will accomplish this year. I thought this committee meeting was important enough to demand Frank Gorrie's presence-- and asked him to be present. He was kind enough to respond and he and the boys had a great session. It will be even better at the general meeting at Hutchinson in three weeks.

You do a great job every day--and excite my envy. Your daily page and the one of Junior Reed's pretty well make up my Bible.

Sincerely,

Rae

March 7, 1950

R. A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

Thanks again for your extravagant observations.

In my judgment Kansas will either send Harry Colmery
to the Senate this year or a fair dealer-new dealer-
Rooseveiter. The whole record of Carlson in Congress
was a new deal record. Kansas will hear more about
that as the shadows of summer lengthen.

It is my judgment that we may have overlooked a good
many opportunities for improvement of the Kansas
service. Getting a bunch of fellows like Stroup and
May and others who are right out on the firing line
in the smaller cities working for improvement of
the service may get results beyond expectations.

Stroup passed on your invitation for "flapjacks" at
El Dorado last Sunday morning but I had to decline.
Some morning you will be surprised to have your phone
ring about 5 o'clock with me on the other end of the
line asking what time breakfast will be ready.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

March 16, 1950

R. A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

Our check for $7. It will match one from you for $7.
Nuf said.

                    Sincerely yours,

                    F. W. Brinkerhoff

PS   Jake Bennett told me yesterday that he had visited
     with you. Fine fellow is Jake. He has a world
     of friends here.

ps² I hope you enjoyed young Bill's bouquet of last
     roses of summer draped around the noble
     Scandinavian head--in recognition and appreciation
     of that GREAT LEADER'S fatherhood of the Kansas state
     income tax.

                    FWB

May 8, 1950

Rolla A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

When I first saw the picture from which a cut was made of
Howard Millington the impression was the same as you got.
I thought, "my gosh here is F. D. R." But the poor man
cannot help what Father Time is doing to him.

What in the heck do you mean--offa you? I was away for two
weeks as I noted you noted. And since getting back I have been
too busy to turn my head to sneeze.

Senator Youse told me that you told him you had kissed me
goodbye for a short time. That is a matter of extreme
regret to me. But I want to tell you a good joke.

Some young fellow was here the other day trying to organize
a Carlson club in Crawford County. He went to the county
chairman on the idea that all county chairmen were for the
Swede. He got sent to somebody else. Somebody else sent
him to somebody else. And somebody else sent him to some-
body else. And finally some kid at the College agreed to
distribute some literature. The Carlson organizer told one
of my men that everything was fine, that Crawford County was
considered by the Carlson "committee" as sure stuff. Crawford
County a Carlson county! Ye gods and tiny fishes!

The thing that pains me most is that Frank is so tied down
to his desk in the governor's office in Topeka that he cannot
display his political charm to his beloved Kansans. It is
terrible to require a governor to stay right there in Topeka
and attend to business when he is needed everywhere else.
There ought to be some provision that would relieve a governor
of Kansas who ran for governor in order to run for senator
from having to be bothered by the governorship come campaign
time. His enemies may get out on the plains and in the valleys
with their campaigns. But our poor governor is tied down
from early in the morning until late at night with the exacting
details of administration. Why? Because he took an oath to

Rolla A. Clymer--2--May 8, 1950

attend to the duties of the office. And also why? Because the
people of Kansas are paying him to apply his superb mental powers
to their problems and the execution of the laws, including the
laws against gambling, and otherwise operate the business of
the state. Necessarily, a governor must stay right in there--he
asked for it--and do his level best even if he does muff and
fumble and splash around.

Will you not join me in a campaign to humanize our laws with
respect to the duties of the governor? Why should a governor,
simply because he is governor, be denied the privilege of offering
his services for a higher or at least another public office to
the people of Kansas? Brother, 'taint right.

Love and kisses--and maybe before Aug 1 some brickbats.

                              Sincerely yours,

                              F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

PS I am forwarding the clipping with your notation to
    George E. Stringfellow, Edison vice president, big man
    in New Jersey and potential governor of New Jersey.
    He does not want to resurrect F. D. R.

                              FWB

Dear Fred:-
        Thanks for your letter--all of it. I
think your program to humanize the office of
governor a most worthy undertaking. Maybe you
ought to humanize the gov. himself. ~~When~~ When I
see you, I shall tell you a story--with a personal
kickback--that I think you will appreciate.

        Of course, Frank manages to get around
but I note that Harry Colmery dedicated a school
building the other day. They all follow the same
patterm. Just when does your candidate get to
dedicating hen houses? Frank has been doing that a
long time.

        What I told Claire Youse was that circum-
stances--or boneheadedness, or something--had forced

-2-

me to kiss you goodbye for the duration--and gosh,
how I regret it. That last is the meat of the whole
matter.

                    Mostly yours, at that,

                              rac Rae

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

May 13, 1950

Rolla A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

I have come out firmly in support of the bureaucratic
decision in Washington for EL Dorado, as you will note.

I suppose you will get another big howl if you happen
to read Friday's story concerning the visitation of
your senatorial candidate to Pittsburg. You will see
that after the governor made his speech to the state
federation of labor, a newspaper guy in Pittsburg made
himself a speech. Do not read too much political trend
in this thing, however, because the next guy was the
county attorney of Crawford County who presumably is
going to be the Democrat nominee for Congress.

Incidentally, you should be advised that next week this
senatorial candidate will fly back to Pittsburg to make
another speech. I note that he can get away from his
office at Topeka now occasionally with young Ollie
Rinehart sitting in the big chair at headquarters. That
makes it nice. It relieves my mind no end.

                    Sincerely yours,

                    F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

PS The "Bull" and five others of us were scheduled to
    sail Monday afternoon for five days in Arkansas
    waters. But they got so much water in northwestern
    Arkansas that all our ports were out of sight. This
    means a delay of eight or ten days.

                    FWB

June 19, 1950

Rolla A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

After your letter and enclosure came I sent for a
new authority on words. And I wil try to put it
to use. In this day of plain speaking, almost any
word will be available for use in a family journal
but accuracy, maybe precisity, will be highly
desirable.

I have been invited by Columbia University, School of
Journalism, Dean Ackerman speaking, to serve on the
Pulitzer jury. The assignment is to editorial
writing. I will be calling on you for some help.
I would appreciate it if you would clip out any
editorials that seem to you to be outstanding enough
for Pulitzer consideration, without respect to the
size of the newspaper.

Just got back Saturday night from an expedition into
Arkansas by water with the "Bull" and four other
fellows. I have a beautiful sunburn, almost 100 percent.
If you want to see somebody who is browned up, come
on over. I am now at home without anything to call
me anywhere but to Topeka until after the first Tuesday
in August. I hope I can do some good where good should
be done.

                              Sincerely yours,

                              F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

July 25, 1950

Rolla A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

"Fighting Frank!"

Why not the "Slugging Swede" or "Conquering Carlson?"

Who wrote the slugs the fighter flung?

There is no substitute for experience. If the Swede
is as calm and peaceful and docile as you pictured him,
how did he get any experience in fighting? And without
experience for which there is no substitute, how could
he have slugged in such a skin removing way as
pictured?

I can easily appreciate how glad you will be when the
day is done next Tuesday.

The signs may be clear on the Kansas horizon all right,
but if so, why was the Swede performing as he was
performing down in the Balkans today? He gave no
indication of a fighting man who believes he has a
fight won.

I am sure you are going to have to eat onions for
breakfast on Wednesday of next week.

                              Sincerely yours,

                              F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

Dear Fred:-

Or how about Fearless Fosdick, the Fighting Fule?

This thing might be carried on to the stage of convulsive vomiting--but please kwitcher kiddin' and let me suffer the remaining few days in comparative peace.

I do think that the Headlight's news story plus picture (first page) was exceedingly fair and generous treatment of an abhorred foe. But then this was no more than what might be expected of you and your square ways. The one most concerned ought to be grateful for such handling--but probably won't.

Yours, Rue

Frederick W. Brinkerhoff correspondence

THE EL DORADO TIMES

—MERGER OF—

WALNUT VALLEY TIMES   EL DORADO REPUBLICAN

EDITOR AND MANAGER
R. A. CLYMER

EL DORADO, KANSAS

August 4, 1950

Dear Fred:-
     I think you did beautifully in your post-primary editorial--particularly in your references to Carlson.

     You are certainly a royal good sportsman.

                   Sincerely,

                   R A Clymer

     Gosh, I have certainly missed marching eight abreast with you, hay foot, straw foot, during the late unpleasantness. I truly hope that from now on nothing but death do us part.

Aug. 5, 1950

Rolla A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

Thanks more than I can tell you again for your kind words.
More than any other man in the state, I am sure, you detected
the sham, the hypocrisy, the dishonesty, the flapdoodle and
such like in the primary campaign in both big races and on all
sides. I will be running in a day or two a piece I wrote about
the Kaw as the great divider, the Pendergast machinery victory
on one side in a 4-1 count and a victory for the choir invisible
at 5-1 on the other bank. My inspiration comes from the two
tales in the esteemed Star, same day. Looking at the Wyandotte
County returns for 1936, 1940, 1944 and 1948, I think I can
imagine what is going to happen to us in Wyandotte County, come
November.

I have several enclosures for you. One is a copy of a letter
I wrote in answer to a note from Bertha Shore. Another is a
copy of a letter transmitting my check for $50 to my business
associate, Marion Stauffer.

Of course, always have I had the policy of printing the news in
these newspapers, without regard for partisanship or religion.
All of the major candidates were given equal play. That went for
the Democrats too. It happened that this time we offered an
interview on KSEK to the major candidates. When Harry Colmery
was down we gave him a 15 minute interview. I prepared the
questions which the interviewer asked. Colmery shot straight out
without any preparation. I am enclosing the answers he made to
the last three questions. I thought you would be interested in
them, especially the answer to the last question. Several persons
who heard it pronounced it a classic, and remember it was
extemporaneous. When Carlson was here he was given the same
opportunity and he was interviewed. The interviewer had an awful
time with him trying to hold him to the questions. For instance,
when he asked the question about the chief national issue. He
said something about not knowing about that but he would like to
discuss a state issue and he went off on a speech about the insane

Rolla A. Clymer--2--Aug. 5, 1950

asylum. Anyway, I thought you would be interested in the Colmery
interview. Another enclosure is a tearout from the Pleasanton
Observer-Enterprise showing a letter I inserted in that paper
myself as an advertisement. Quite a few fellows have thought it
was a good advertisement.

Send the Colmery copy back to me for my files.

Lawson did us dirt out of Topeka. My opinion is that a louse who
lingers around Topeka as a newspaper fellow tells Lawson what to
do and how to do it. That is the only real festering sore spot
I have.

I hope we can get together for a rag chewing before long. Such
occasions are more enjoyable than political victories.

                              Sincerely yours,

                              F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

THE EL DORADO TIMES
—MERGER OF—

WALNUT VALLEY TIMES   EL DORADO REPUBLICAN

EDITOR AND MANAGER
R. A. CLYMER

EL DORADO, KANSAS

August 10, 1950

Mr. Fred W. Brinkerhoff
Pittsburg, Kansas

My Dear Fred:-

Thanks for your letter and all its enclosures. You may be sure that I have read everything with interest--more than once.

I have been watching for your Pendergast-Choir Invisible piece, but have not seen it as yet. I surely don't want to miss those article, so please have your secretary provide me with the clipping if it has already been published.

I snickered over your part ~~counsel to~~ *ing shot at* Marion S. as to what to do with that bet check.

As to Jake Lawson, I wonder about him sometimes. I have heard you criticise him before. Maybe it is time for the AP to move him along. I am guessing at the identity of the "louse who lingers around Topeka as a newspaper fellow," but am not sure. Maybe you had better enlighten me confidentially.

I am trying not to delude myself, and believe we are going to have a tough election campaign ahead. I truly hope the winners in the primary ruckus will not try to rub it in, and will be considerate of all party members when the platform is written. I shall hope to see you at the party council.

Am returning the Colmery copy herewith.

As always, your friend,

R A Clymer

Aug. 11, 1950

Rolla A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

The reference in my letter about the "Choir Invisible" was to
the editorial on "The Great Divider" with Pendergast and
pollution on one side of the Kaw and purity, virtue, innocence
and the Choir Invisible on the other side.

I expect to run tomorrow a piece on Mahatma McCoy, his board
of directors to run the Republican party and the list of the
damned and the proscribed.

You guessed right on the louse I mentioned. You could not
miss.

One of these days you will hear the juiciest story of Kansas
politics for a long time, romantic, dramatic, humorous and
everything. If you do not hear it before I see you, I will
give it to you with proper embellishment. But I think it
may break out in the open before then. Scandal superb--even
if delayed.

Sincerely yours,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls