

## Rolla Clymer correspondence

### Section 1035, Pages 31021 - 31050

This series of the Rolla Clymer collection includes sent and received correspondence arranged chronologically beginning in 1909. With few exceptions, the correspondence provides a continuous and very complete view of his activities. Much of the earliest correspondence in the Clymer collection pertains to information about the College of Emporia for the period Clymer was a student there. Scattered throughout the remainder of the correspondence is information about Emporia athletics and alumni activities and letters with former classmates. From 1914 to 1918, Clymer was editor and manager of the Olathe, Kansas, Register. In 1918, Rolla Clymer moved his young family to El Dorado, Kansas, where he became editor and manager of the El Dorado Republican. Except for a six month hiatus in 1937 as editor and manager of the Santa Fe New Mexican in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Clymer served the remainder of his professional career in El Dorado.

In his later years, Clymer devoted much of his time to efforts to preserve the Kansas Flint Hills region which he dearly loved. In addition to newspaper editorials, he wrote and published numerous widely circulated articles and poems about the Flint Hills. Perhaps his best known tribute was his poem "Majesty of the Hills," which helped earn him the designation as Poet Laureate of the Flint Hills. Rolla Clymer died on June 4, 1977, having been the editor of the El Dorado Times for fifty-nine years. For a complete contents list of the Rolla Clymer collection, see the External Links below.

Date: 1909-1977

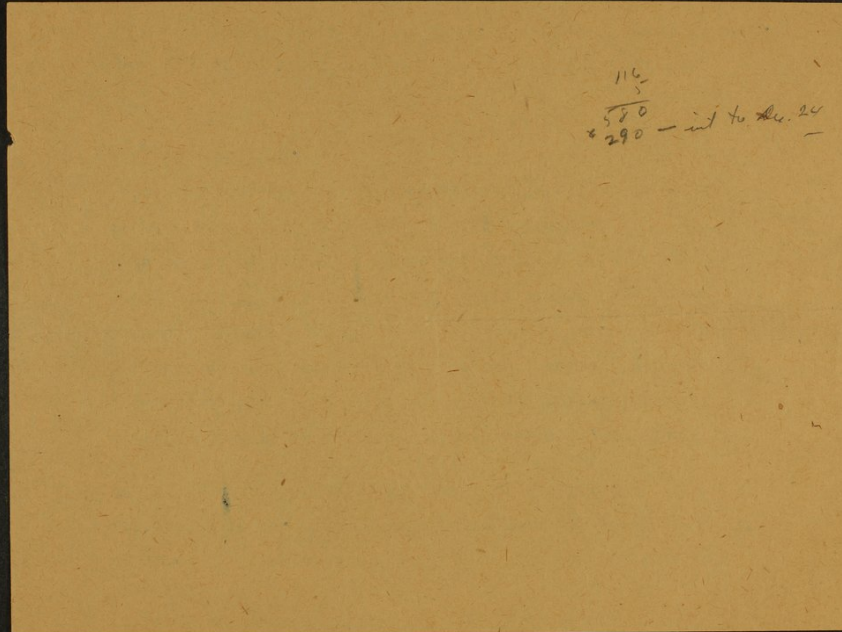
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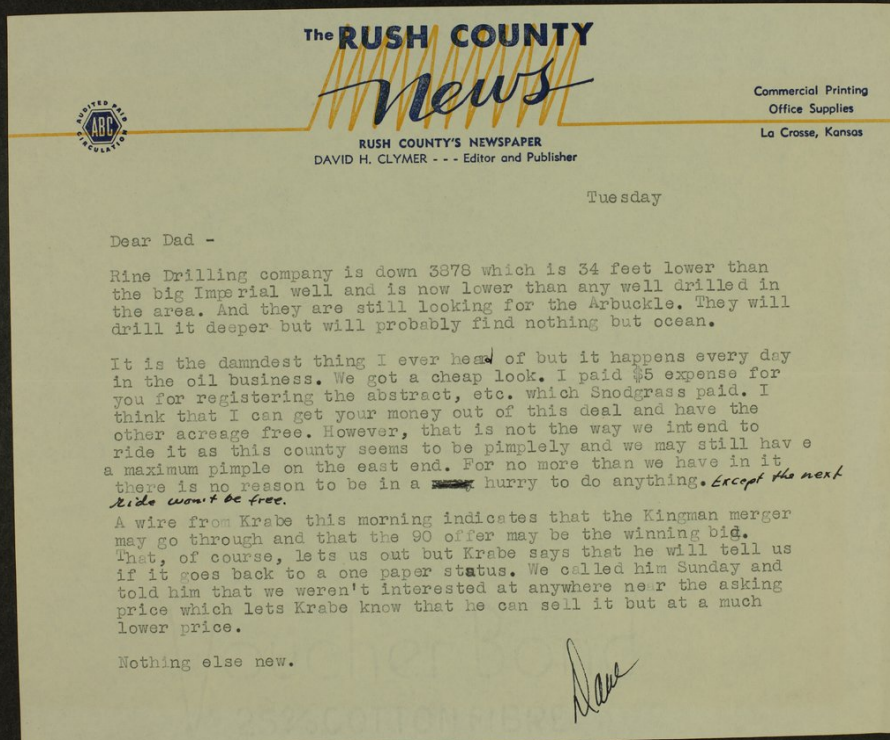
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## Rolla Clymer correspondence



## Rolla Clymer correspondence







### The RUSH COUNTY *News*

RUSH COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
DAVID H. CLYMER - - - Editor and Publisher

Commercial Printing  
Office Supplies

La Crosse, Kansas

Tuesday  
~~Monday~~

Dear Dad:

Attached is a self-explanatory letter which arrived this morning concerning a paper which Lon and I have been vitally interested in during the past two years and one which Krabe has sent queries to for us.

Now - I talked with Lon this morning and Krabe had called him about the deal last night. Lon believes that this one is much better than either ML or Oakley and that it would round out our group of four - with me devoting my time to the overall management.

We have not seen the operating statement but the 60 figure should be gross. We believe that this field has not been exploited as well as it could have been and that it is a natural for what we want.

I know all the stock answers against our entering this venture at this time and will concur.

My question is this.

Should we be interested enough to follow the deal through as Krabe thinks that 60 will be the price and that Tibbetts will go for a small down payment to responsible parties. By small we figure 20 and less, naturally, if we can get it. The balance at 4% would be our deal.

Lon has a boy at Colo Springs who is capable of a deal and might take half - Lon would take the other half if I can't swing it. Or, we would put Jerry Dick from ML there as he is ready.

As these deals go, they always come up suddenly and we can't cover all of the aspects ~~of~~ of the problem at this time.

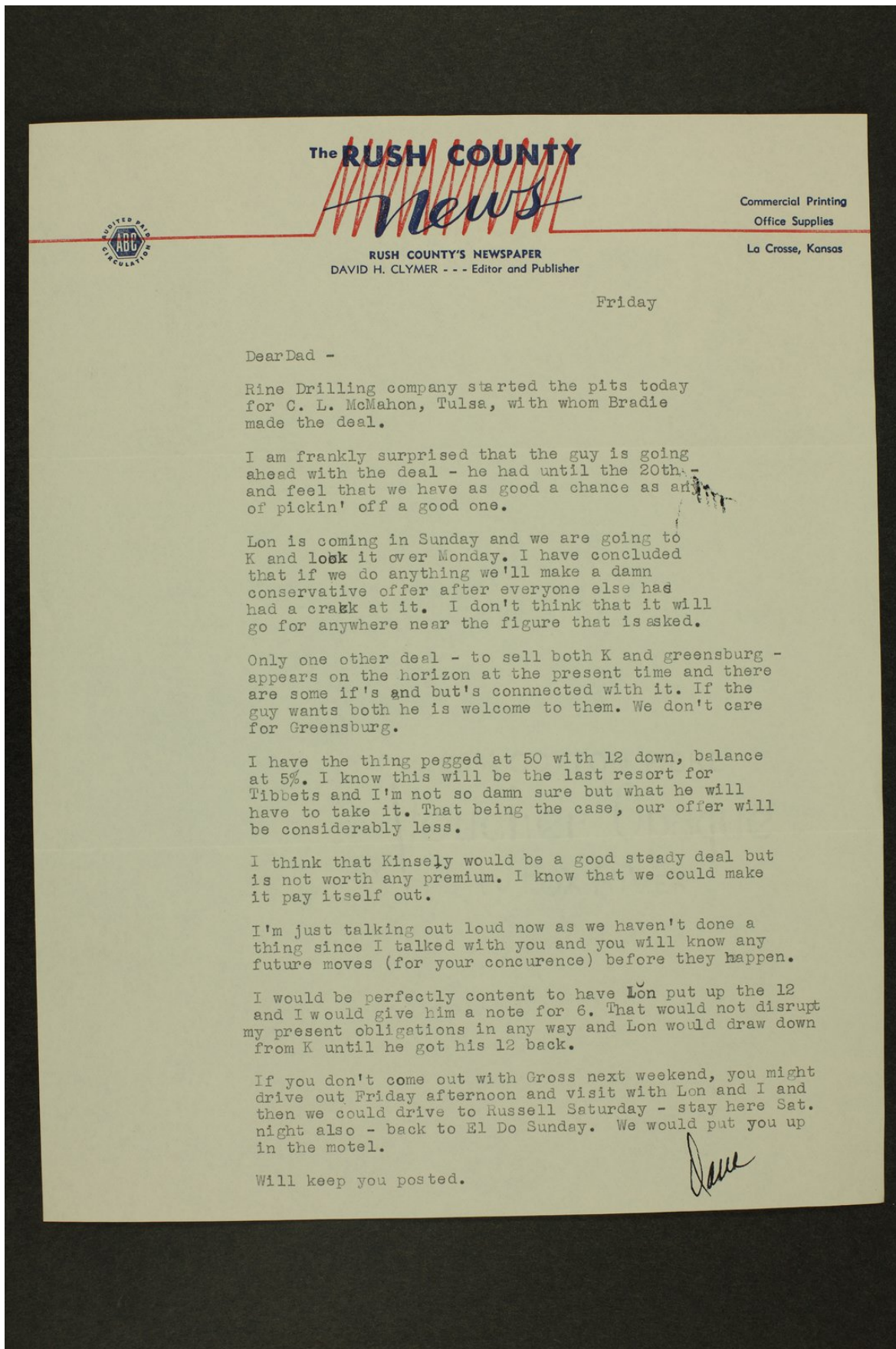
I would suggest that you call Krabe and get his lineup on the deal as we both have confidence in him. Would like to hear your comments by Thursday or Friday as Lon would make the trip this weekend.

The big doins' at Russell ends with a free barbeque on Saturday, Sept. 12. Why don't you plan to come out that weekend.

Will mail last week's issue of the Mercury to you.

*Rolla*

## Rolla Clymer correspondence





## Rolla Clymer correspondence

17 CENTRAL STREET  
METHUEN, MASS.

Editor  
El Dorado Times  
El Dorado, Kansas

Dear Sir:

Whilst still a resident of El Dorado subsequent to the flood in May of this year, I recollect that your newspaper carried an article concerning the possibility of claiming tax rebate as a result of being a flood victim.

As you may see from the above address, I am no longer a resident, but would be very much obliged if you could arrange to supply me with a copy of the mentioned article or the address of the tax expert or official who was responsible for originating the article, in order that at least in my case some advantage might be derived from the flood.

No doubt you have completely forgotten me, but I was introduced to you at the dinner at the hotel after the local teachers association had toured the various plants, and where you gave such an excellent after-dinner speech. At that time I was plant manager of Grayco Industries.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Very truly yours,

*S. W. Farley*

S. W. Farley

SWF:aal

THE LYONS DAILY NEWS

PAUL A. JONES  
Editor

Dear Rolla:

Under separate cover I am mailing to you a book, my first and, in all probability, my last attempt at fiction. If you will give me a little mention I shall be grateful, especially if you state that it may be obtained from local book stores or postpaid for \$2.75 from Prairie Publishers, Lyons, Kansas.

Also if you will give me the name of a book store or two in your city I shall be further obligated.

Sincerely





## Rolla Clymer correspondence

### THE EMPORIA GAZETTE

THE WHITE CORPORATION, INC.

W. L. WHITE, Editor

EMPORIA, KANSAS

E. T. LOWTHER  
BUSINESS MANAGER

Friday morning.

Dear Rolla:

As I told you, if the Santa Fe located our car of paper I wouldn't call. They located it and that's why you didn't hear from me. The paper got into KC Thursday night and came on down to Emporia early today and we are now ready to unload. That was a close call and all the fault of M & O. The office wrote us in July the car would be shipped on or about August 8 and they didn't ship it until August 14.

I want to thank you just the same for your generous offer to help us out, but am glad we didn't have to bother you. I am going to try and get a firm shipping date hereafter out of M & O--one or two days leeway wouldn't be so bad, but a week's delay sure is too long.

So again many thanks and our best regards to you and remember us to Klint, too.

Sincerely yours,

*E. T. Lowther*



## Rolla Clymer correspondence

Dear Rolla,

Thanks so much for the kind things you said about Otto in a recent editorial + for your services as pall bearer. I know he would have felt honored by each of those gestures on your part. Your editorial, as usual, was a perfect character analysis. Rolla Clymer, don't you ever write an editorial about me (I flatter myself) because you hit too close to the truth. I am under the impression that I've fooled the folks all these years; don't you tell them what a ratter I've been. And since you always hit it so close I have developed a fear that ~~if~~ you'll

## Rolla Clymer correspondence

Come through with it all in  
in 10 pt - 2 col Baur page of  
El Do Times one day and all  
my hoodwinked friends will  
gasp with horror and exclaim. "Was  
she really like that." Their 35 years  
of experience will be convincing  
that if Rolla Clymer says so, it  
is so.

I do the special interest section  
for the Eagle, and have since I've  
been here. Was too rushed to get a real  
Oil story last year, but have planned  
in in this year, so am going to spend  
a couple of days at El Do next week.  
Will see you. Just going to come over  
on bus + stay. No car etc to bother.  
Then to Eureka for same.

I ~~never~~ went through the first  
week after Otto's death ~~xxx~~ and caught,  
due to ~~trip~~ Bromide + grey pills, but last  
week was bad + this one worse.

Sincerely Ruth Meyer



## Rolla Clymer correspondence

U.C.S.

Dear Mr. Clymer -

I want you to know  
how very much I appreciate  
your generous Editorial  
about Clifford.

Your friendly interest  
and your encouragement  
has meant a great deal  
to him.

He feels the award  
is un-deserved, but,  
being a proud mother,

## Rolla Clymer correspondence

I am most appreciative  
of the honor bestowed upon  
him and believe it is  
deserved.

I can see in his activities  
the characteristics of his fore-  
fathers - The innate kindness  
of his father, the strength and  
fortitude of his grandparents.  
Especially the gentleness of my  
father and the inspiration  
of my mother, who was, to all  
of us, a tower of strength  
and courage.

Added to these in his  
gratitude to God for His



## Rolla Clymer correspondence

watchful care and guid-  
ance and the great privilege  
of living in a free country -

Sincerely

Oliver C. Stone

Saturday.

## Rolla Clymer correspondence

From WINNIE (THE CLIPPER) TAYLOR

District                      U. S. PRESS ASSOCIATION  
7-7518                      806 Seventeenth Street, Northwest  
                                    WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

Publishers of the Grass-roots Editorial Commentary:  
YOUR WASHINGTON-EXCLUSIVE

Dear Mr. Clymer,

Thanks so much for your prompt response to our query . . and we are very happy that you find our material useful. Thanks also, for the kind words on the card . . the very finest compensation for our efforts.

Your good EL DORADO TIMES was in the mail bag yesterday - it is a splendid paper and we are proud to add you to our list. And we shall continue to try to give you the feel of this town down here on the Potomac where the currents and cross-currents of affairs whirl about us until we're dizzy. And then we know that in fifteen minutes we can be out in the peaceful hills of Virginia - a mighty fine way to gain perspective. So . . this being press day, we took a turn through the hills and came

"EDITORS are somewhat like PEOPLE . . . and ought to be more like them when possible."  
(Our Motto)



## Rolla Clymer correspondence

back refreshed for the usual all-night  
job of "getting out the letter" to our good  
editor friends all over this grand United  
States.

Bob joins me in wishing for you and  
yours a wonderful holiday season, and a good  
and satisfying New Year.

Sincerely,

*Winnie Taylor*

## Rolla Clymer correspondence

The Eldorado Times  
Eldorado, Kans.

Dear Sir:

Did I hear you say you wanted suggestions which would make your paper better?

Well we folks outside of Eldorado that don't get your paper until a day later would like to have the radio and T V programs printed for the day we receive the paper instead of a day after it is past. Would this be asking too much from you? You see when we get Monday paper on Tues. the programs are past. If we could have Tuesday programs in Monday paper then we could tell what to look for on the T V stations that night. How about printing Okla. City Channel 4. programs in your paper also?

Thanking you very much  
One of your faithful  
readers.





### The RUSH COUNTY *News*

RUSH COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
DAVID H. CLYMER - - - Editor and Publisher

Commercial Printing  
Office Supplies  
La Crosse, Kansas

Thursday

Dear Dad:

Enclosed is your copy of the report and two interest checks which I am sure you will know what to do with.

We had a good month but the account receivables don't seem to drop much. I plan to go after these as that is money in the bank as far as I am concerned.

Harry suggested that we wait six more months before ~~moving~~ moving any money from El Dorado here. He said that it would make my payoff record look better and then we would not renew the note for so much so that the examiners would think I was making some headway. I think it is strictly for the birds but we'll ~~let~~ let it go that way anyway.

Most of the money this month went for interest and income tax. I expect to make a ~~sizeable~~ sizeable depletion though during the next two months.

I hope that the amount of the checks enclosed is sufficient. I figure both for six months at 5%.

No wheat crop so business will drop some this summer. Looks as if office supplies are carrying a good share of the load.

I am leaving Sunday for a week in Minnesota fishing.

Betty plans to call Mother and give her all of the details but we plan to come to El Do Saturday, June 20 and have Dick christened on Sunday.

See you then -



### THE GLOBE PUBLISHING CO.

ATCHISON DAILY GLOBE

FOUNDED BY E. W. HOWE 1877

ATCHISON SUNDAY GLOBE

CHARTER MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS - ASSOCIATED PRESS - BUREAU OF ADVERTISING, A. N. P. A.

ATCHISON, KANSAS

GENE A. HOWE, Chairman of Board  
PAUL ALLINGHAM, President  
AL BENNETT, Publisher-Editor

Tues-

Dear Rolla:

A thousand pardons!

Have been covering a rape case. All reporters out in the hinterland getting pictures of graduating classes for an edition. People walking in with the damndest requests. Phone ringing off the hook.

Bob Taft of the Academy of Science mentioned your reply. I feverishly went thru a week's supply of Times. Couldn't find it. Appreciate your help immensely.

Sure, Snort would never have needed it. But could he have been this busy? Probably.

In appreciation, I shall cuss you roundly in the Wednesday April 29 issue of the Daily Disappointment.

Best,

*Al*  
Al



## Rolla Clymer correspondence

EL DORADO JUNIOR COLLEGE  
EL DORADO - KANSAS

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Rolla Clymer, Editor  
El Dorado Times  
El Dorado, Kansas

Dear Mr. Clymer:

I would like to tell you again that I still feel that the job you did at the banquet last night was the best that I have ever heard. You knew exactly what to say and how to say it.

The events of the past weekend have done a lot for the community and for the junior college and I feel that you have contributed a major portion in the celebration of this victory.

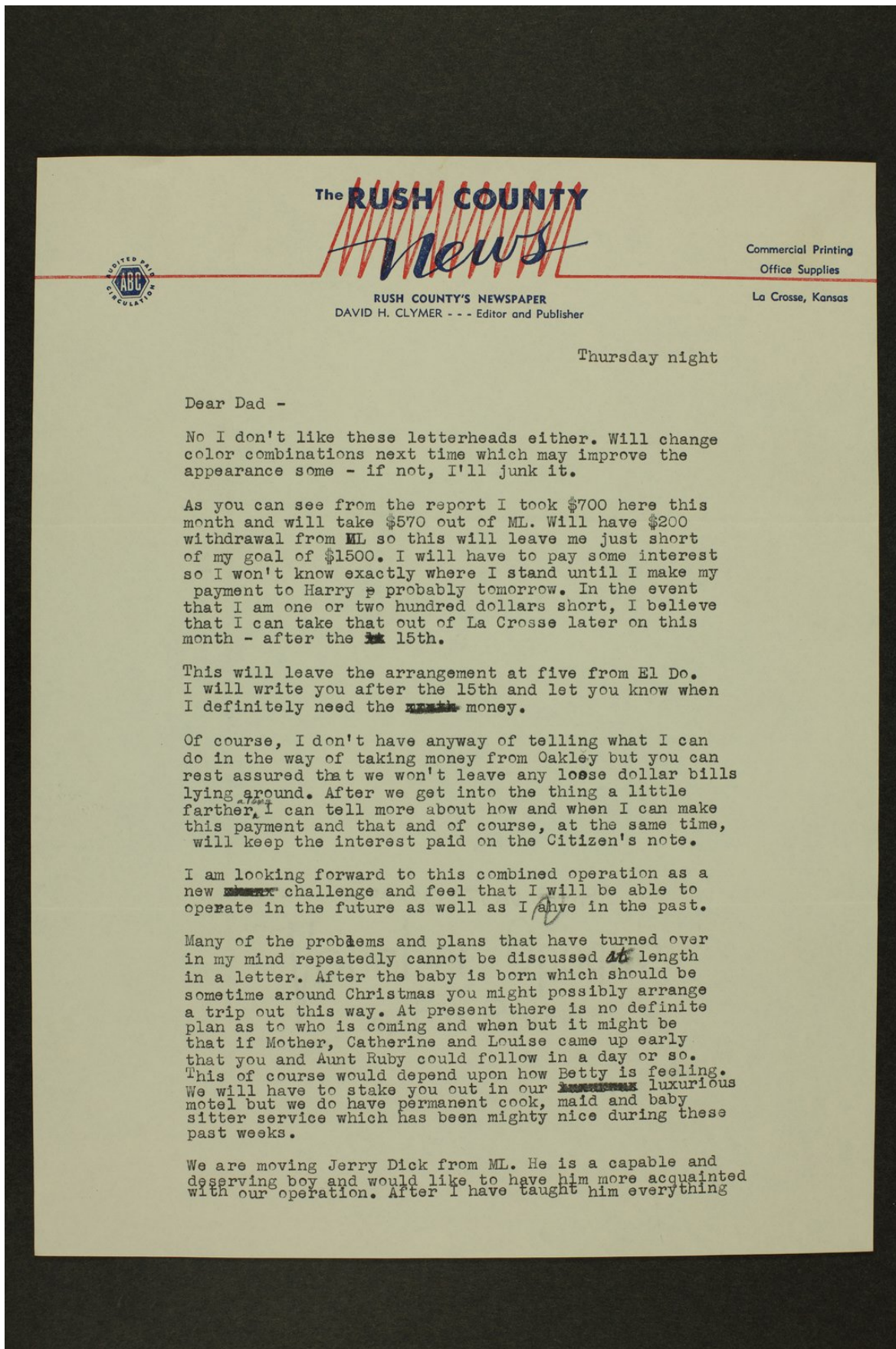
We sincerely hope that the El Dorado Junior College and the El Dorado Public Schools will continue to merit the fine support that we have from the community in the past.

Sincerely yours,

*Max*  
Max Bickford  
Dean

edl

## Rolla Clymer correspondence



### The RUSH COUNTY News



RUSH COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
DAVID H. CLYMER - - - Editor and Publisher

Commercial Printing  
Office Supplies  
La Crosse, Kansas

Thursday night

Dear Dad -

No I don't like these letterheads either. Will change color combinations next time which may improve the appearance some - if not, I'll junk it.

As you can see from the report I took \$700 here this month and will take \$570 out of ML. Will have \$200 withdrawal from ML so this will leave me just short of my goal of \$1500. I will have to pay some interest so I won't know exactly where I stand until I make my payment to Harry ~~at~~ probably tomorrow. In the event that I am one or two hundred dollars short, I believe that I can take that out of La Crosse later on this month - after the ~~15~~ 15th.

This will leave the arrangement at five from El Do. I will write you after the 15th and let you know when I definitely need the ~~money~~ money.

Of course, I don't have anyway of telling what I can do in the way of taking money from Oakley but you can rest assured that we won't leave any loose dollar bills lying around. After we get into the thing a little farther, I can tell more about how and when I can make this payment and that and of course, at the same time, will keep the interest paid on the Citizen's note.

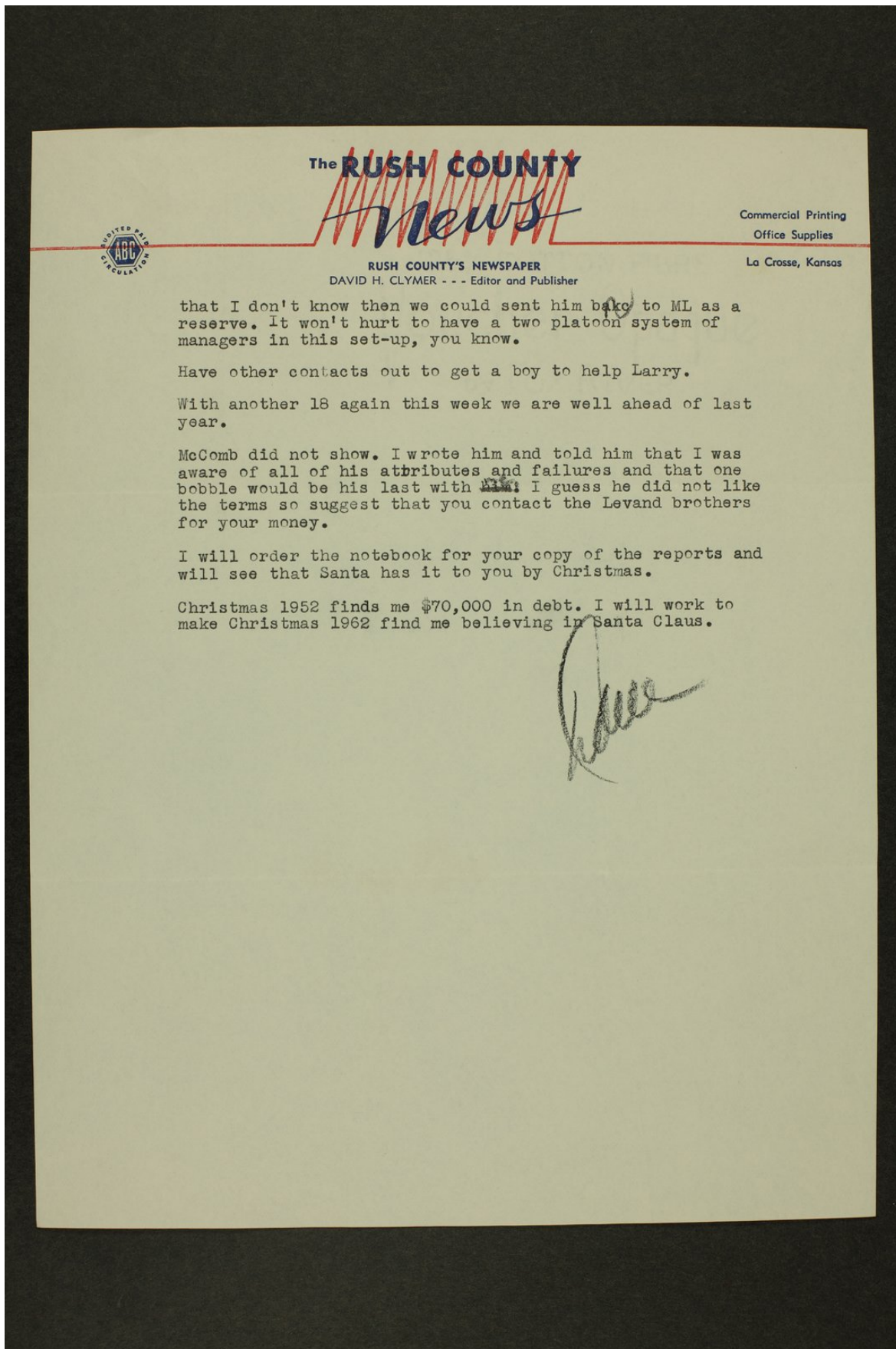
I am looking forward to this combined operation as a new ~~challenge~~ challenge and feel that I will be able to operate in the future as well as I ~~have~~ in the past.

Many of the problems and plans that have turned over in my mind repeatedly cannot be discussed ~~at~~ length in a letter. After the baby is born which should be sometime around Christmas you might possibly arrange a trip out this way. At present there is no definite plan as to who is coming and when but it might be that if Mother, Catherine and Louise came up early that you and Aunt Ruby could follow in a day or so. This of course would depend upon how Betty is feeling. We will have to stake you out in our ~~luxurious~~ luxurious motel but we do have permanent cook, maid and baby sitter service which has been mighty nice during these past weeks.

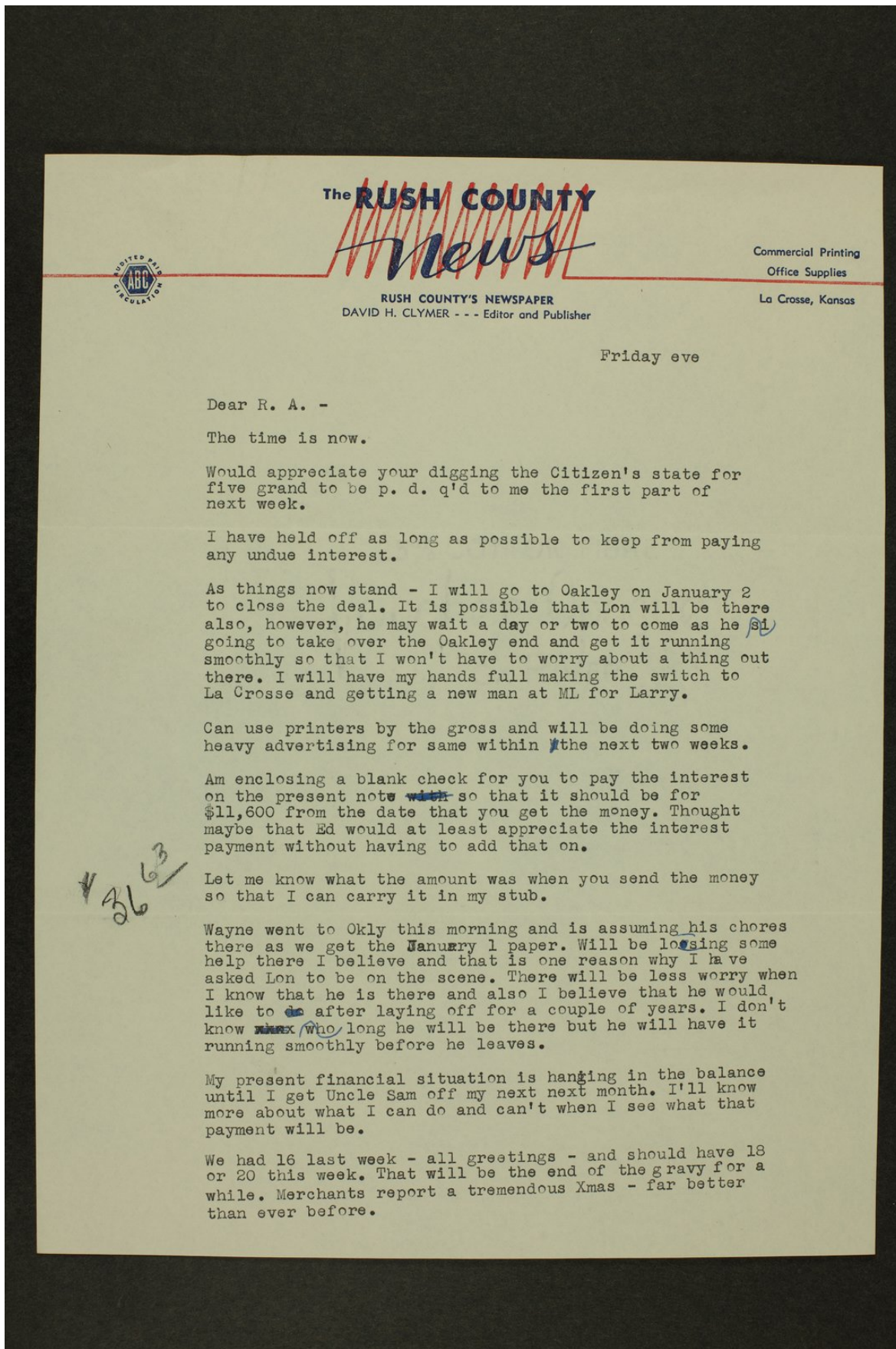
We are moving Jerry Dick from ML. He is a capable and deserving boy and would like to have him more acquainted with our operation. After I have taught him everything



## Rolla Clymer correspondence



## Rolla Clymer correspondence







### The RUSH COUNTY News

RUSH COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
DAVID H. CLYMER - - - Editor and Publisher

Commercial Printing  
Office Supplies

La Crosse, Kansas

now the report from the home front -

Little RAC is not taking to his milk diet. Betty got to come home Wednesday but we left the new offspring at the hospital until they get his ~~formula~~ formula worked out. He has a hard time holding his food down so we are going to leave him in the hospital until they get the difficulty worked out. It is much easier on all concerned. Of course, he is having the colic and the tummy ache and Momma and Poppa are not walking the floor with him. Our hospital is a dandy and we are fortunate in having it so handy.

The savings bond and the bountiful check are both appreciated immensely. You always know how to touch my tender heart. With the bankroll lower than normal because of the time of the year, you can be assured that it has paved Dick's way into the cool, bitter world.

Sally, of course, is taking all this in her stride as the full complications of having a baby brother around have not struck her as yet. She is sold on the idea, however, but has not been properly awed.

We enjoyed our ~~Christmas~~ Christmas, spending a quiet day at home, and hope that yours was likewise as pleasant.

When you are able to get away I would suggest that you travel west to view this ever changing world.

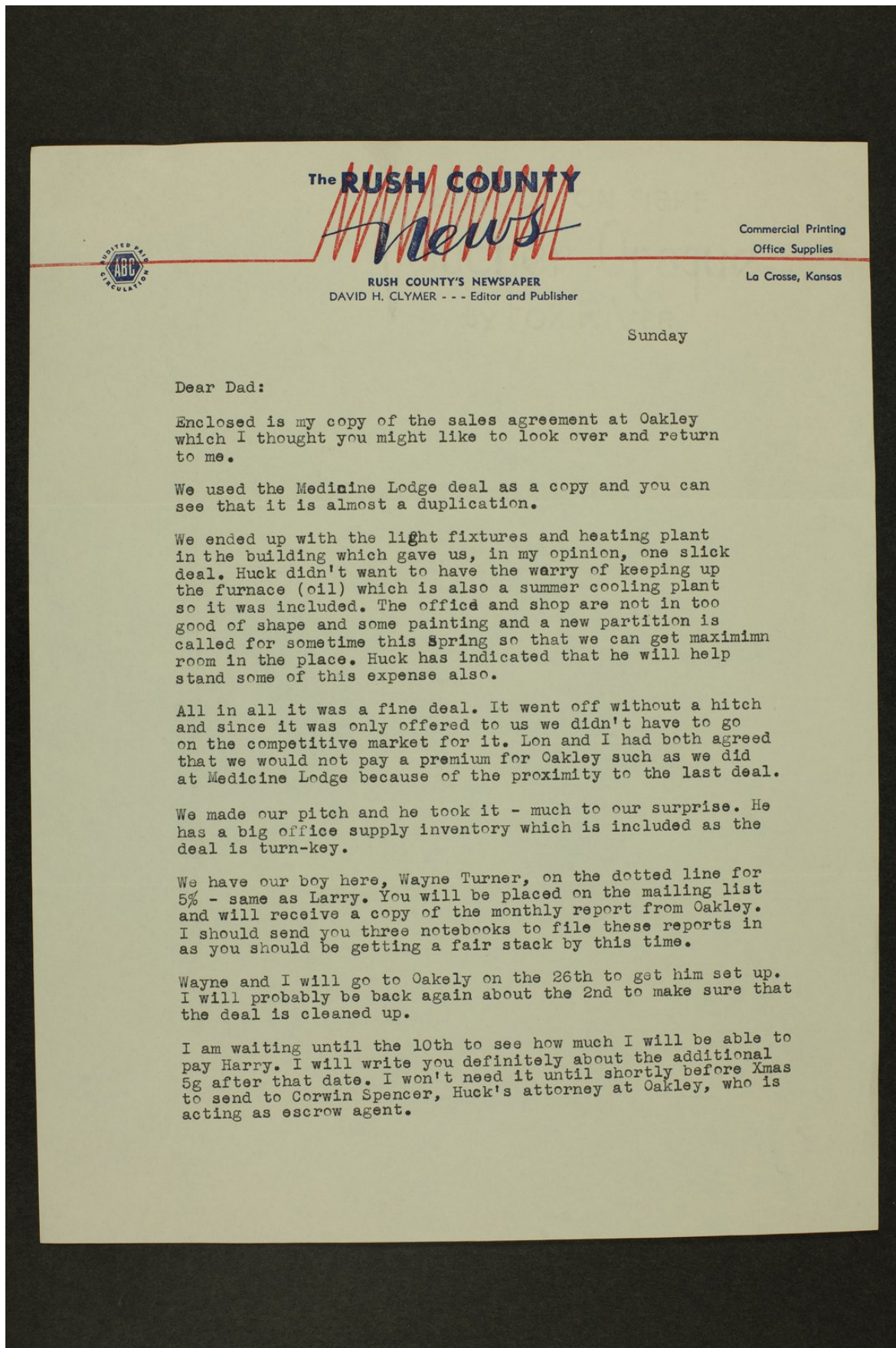
Going the rounds -

To My Republican Friend

The election is over, the result is known  
The will of the people is clearly shown  
Let's forget our quarrels and show by our deeds  
That we will give Ike all the help he needs  
Let's get together and let bitterness pass  
I'll hug your elephant and you kiss my ass.



## Rolla Clymer correspondence



### The RUSH COUNTY News



RUSH COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
DAVID H. CLYMER - - - Editor and Publisher

Commercial Printing  
Office Supplies

La Crosse, Kansas

Sunday

Dear Dad:

Enclosed is my copy of the sales agreement at Oakley which I thought you might like to look over and return to me.

We used the Medicine Lodge deal as a copy and you can see that it is almost a duplication.

We ended up with the light fixtures and heating plant in the building which gave us, in my opinion, one slick deal. Huck didn't want to have the worry of keeping up the furnace (oil) which is also a summer cooling plant so it was included. The office and shop are not in too good of shape and some painting and a new partition is called for sometime this Spring so that we can get maximum room in the place. Huck has indicated that he will help stand some of this expense also.

All in all it was a fine deal. It went off without a hitch and since it was only offered to us we didn't have to go on the competitive market for it. Lon and I had both agreed that we would not pay a premium for Oakley such as we did at Medicine Lodge because of the proximity to the last deal.

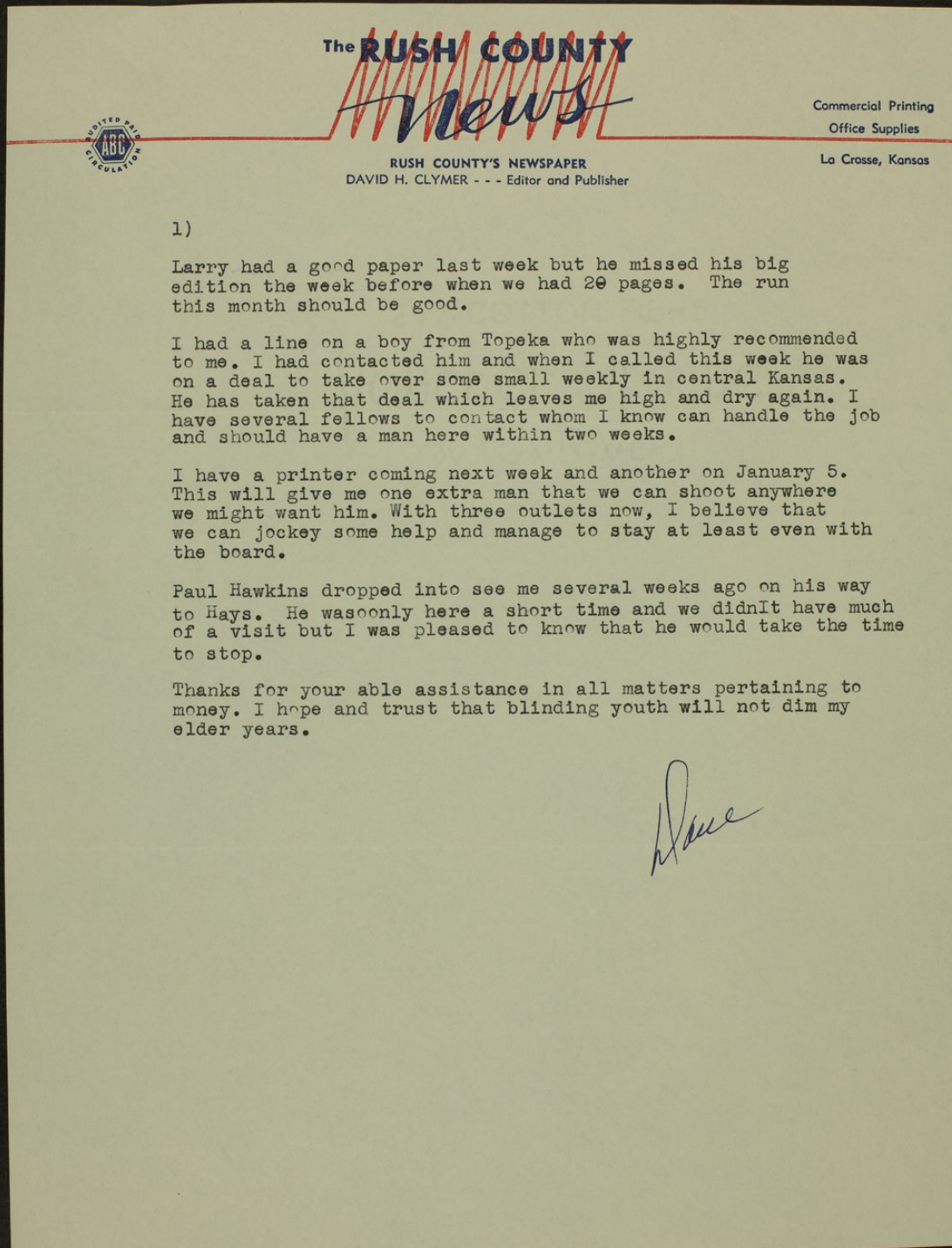
We made our pitch and he took it - much to our surprise. He has a big office supply inventory which is included as the deal is turn-key.

We have our boy here, Wayne Turner, on the dotted line for 5% - same as Larry. You will be placed on the mailing list and will receive a copy of the monthly report from Oakley. I should send you three notebooks to file these reports in as you should be getting a fair stack by this time.

Wayne and I will go to Oakley on the 26th to get him set up. I will probably be back again about the 2nd to make sure that the deal is cleaned up.

I am waiting until the 10th to see how much I will be able to pay Harry. I will write you definitely about the additional 5% after that date. I won't need it until shortly before Xmas to send to Corwin Spencer, Huck's attorney at Oakley, who is acting as escrow agent.





1)

Larry had a good paper last week but he missed his big edition the week before when we had 20 pages. The run this month should be good.

I had a line on a boy from Topeka who was highly recommended to me. I had contacted him and when I called this week he was on a deal to take over some small weekly in central Kansas. He has taken that deal which leaves me high and dry again. I have several fellows to contact whom I know can handle the job and should have a man here within two weeks.

I have a printer coming next week and another on January 5. This will give me one extra man that we can shoot anywhere we might want him. With three outlets now, I believe that we can jockey some help and manage to stay at least even with the board.

Paul Hawkins dropped into see me several weeks ago on his way to Hays. He was only here a short time and we didn't have much of a visit but I was pleased to know that he would take the time to stop.

Thanks for your able assistance in all matters pertaining to money. I hope and trust that blinding youth will not dim my elder years.

*Rolla*



### The RUSH COUNTY News



RUSH COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
DAVID H. CLYMER - - - Editor and Publisher

Commercial Printing  
Office Supplies

La Crosse, Kansas

Sunday

Dear Dad:

Encl<sup>ed</sup> is the report which shows that La Crosse is still the gem of the ~~midwest~~ ocean.

Total gross for year \$65,000. Net \$22,000. The biggest year so far and one of which I am proud as it has not been too easy with ML added to the problems.

My net taxable income was a little more than \$10,000 which cost me \$1,700 income tax. Next year will not be so good because of the election but it shouldn't drop too much.

With the depreciation thrown in at ML, we managed to show a loss for the year. We took about \$6,800 out of business there in seven months.

You should have Larry's report by now and notice that he had a loss in December. This just about stopped us. I was down there Tuesday night and went over the thing with him and I'll be damned if I could find it. Somehow he just didn't show enough gross. I have no reason to doubt the validity of the report but you can be<sup>lieve</sup> that it is going to do better or I'll know the reason why.

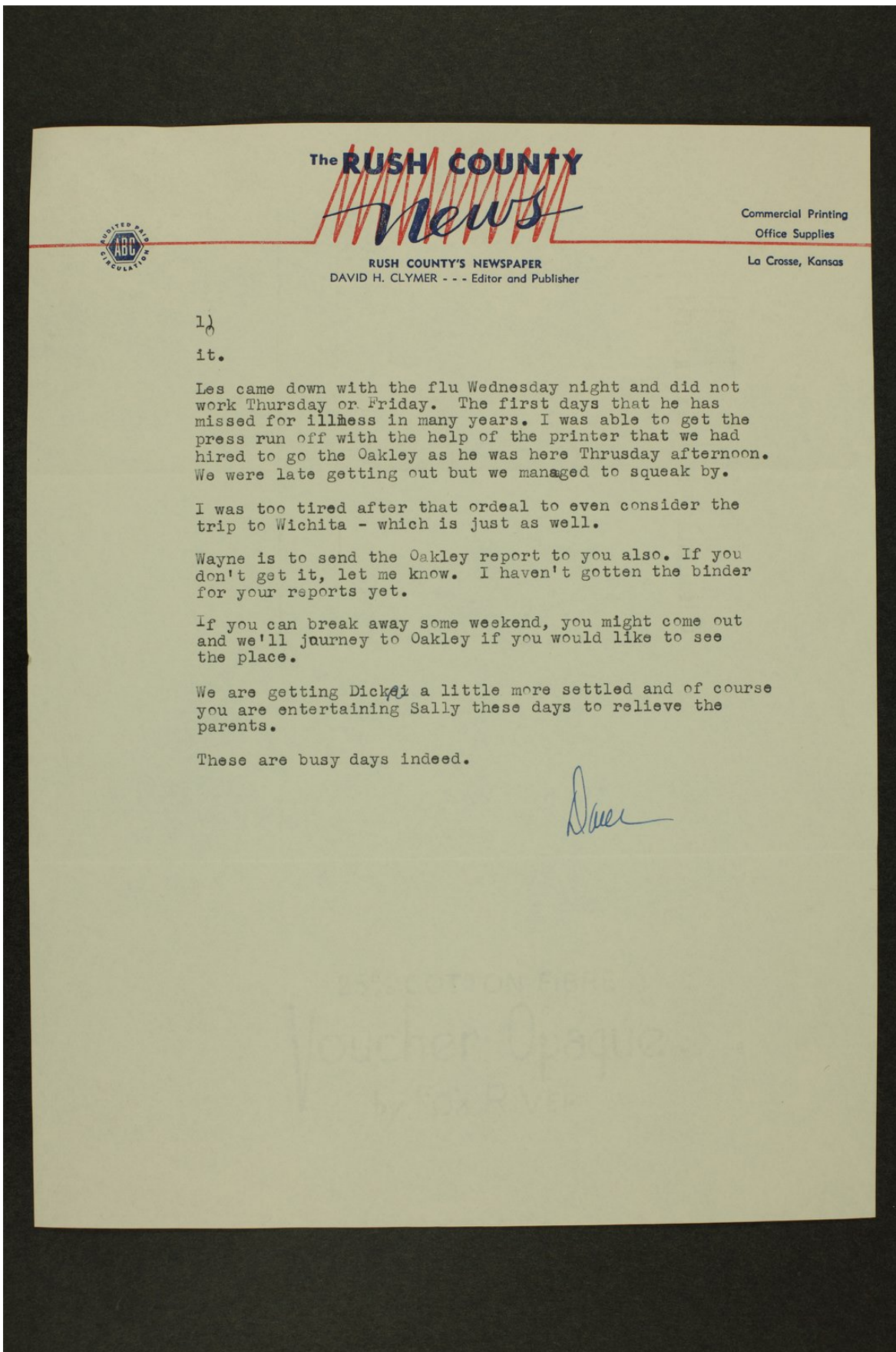
We have our problems. Everyone at Oakley was glad to see Clark Hord go. His credit was terrible. Companies had ceased to ship to him. Two boys in the back quit. We still need a printer there, Hired ~~one~~ that used to work here. Good boy but he will need some help.

One of ~~four~~ top men at ML gave two weeks notice. We are replacing him with Bus Turner who used to work for Lon here and who has been at Twin Falls, Idaho for the past three years. I am still short one man here to help Lester and have done everything I know to fill the spot. Spent \$60 in classified adv at Omaha, Kansas City and Oklahoma city.

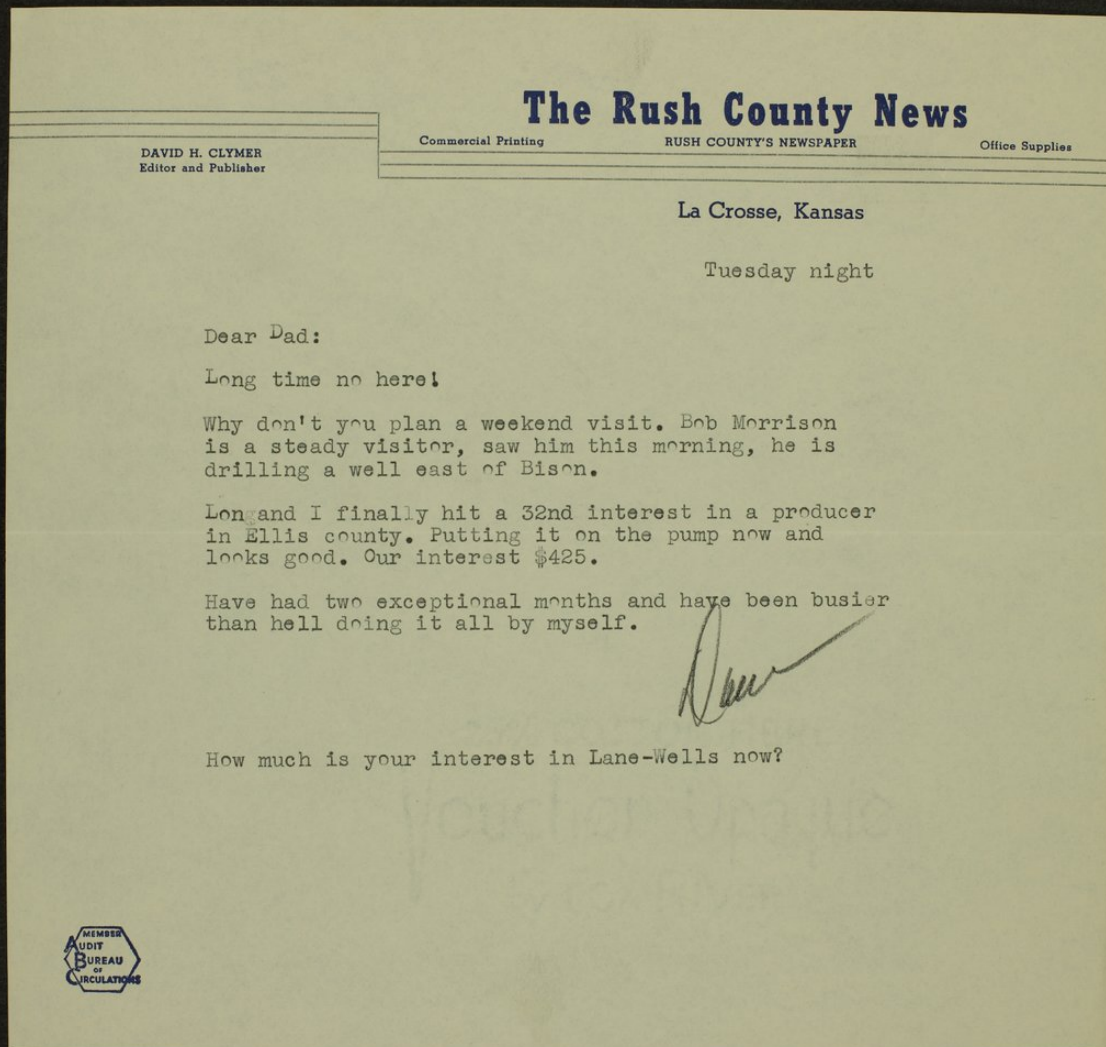
Lon and I have come to the conclusion that we are going to have to steal them to get the help that we want. It is a deplorable situation but we can't stand on etiquette if we are to keep these things rolling.

I still need a front office man to replace the boy at ML and I have tried every source on that score. At least we are holding the overhead down while enjoying unusual January business. But we can't continue it as our nerves won't stand





## Rolla Clymer correspondence







### The Rush County News

DAVID H. CLYMER  
Editor and Publisher

Commercial Printing

RUSH COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

Office Supplies

La Crosse, Kansas

Monday

Dear Dad -

Enclosed is the monthly report.

Still having fairly good business and don't believe that I will have much expense this month so should be able to take a larger split.

We had to use a little of the coin to finish paying for our oil well (\$600) so that should last us until they drill another. All together our 32nd interest cost us about \$1000. Our pay ~~back~~ back should be about \$30 a month. I just hope it pumps for three years.

I will try and schedule our trip to El Do in June about the time that my note is due or before. After the 10th of next month I should be able to transfer about \$3000 of that note here. Will have all the necessary notes, etc. with me at that time. I don't suppose Ed would be too unhappy if I picked it up a little earlier.

Am having worlds of help trouble with no sign of any relief. I have good interim help but they won't be with me long.

Everything is is just as usual.



## Rolla Clymer correspondence

Dear Rolla: I read your recent editorial on wetbacks with considerable interest. I have folks in the Valley who use wetback labor, when they can get it, and I believe your information has been most unreliable. These wetbacks still are kept in virtual slavery in Mexico, their wage about 20 cents a day, and they cross the dusty Rio Grande for the big wages offered, big according to their standards. Now, the Valley is organized, and I mean organized. A wage of \$3 per hour is demanded by the labor bosses for farm work, and even by Texas standards that is too much. Under Truman, the unemployed were babied and petted until no farmer can get anyone to do anything so they employ wetbacks. I have seen them, so many times, the whole family in the fields in cotton time and even a little kid gets as high as \$25 a week. That is wondrous wealth to them. However, the labor bosses do not like this and their henchmen drive the roads day after day, seeking wetbacks. When they find them they inform the immigration service and huge, barred trucks roll out and the wetbacks are picked up. They are not permitted to draw their wages, nor inform their families. I know whereof I speak. They are herded then into concentration camps and Rolla you should see these. Huge bull pens of electrified wire, searchlights, guard towers and the like, reminds one of Dauchau. Anyway, then big trucks are filled and the Mexicans are not taken back across the river, but 80 or 90 miles, perhaps more, to Laredo, then turned loose in Mexico. To get back to Venosa or Brownsville they must go first to Monterey, for there are no roads on the Mexican side of the river. Having no money, they must walk. Now comes the criminal part of it. They are picked up by Mexican police as vagrants, fined and given prison sentences. Then big landlords kindly pay the fines and they are permitted to work out their sentences on Mexican farms. They are fed twice a day and the conditions are shocking. I was there in May, 1952, when they picked up my brother-in-law's help and although we drove to the concentration camp, and he pleaded to be allowed to pay



## Rolla Clymer correspondence

2

these people, he was refused.  
A case that interested me this year was at Harlingen where the mother and father of five children were picked up, had been on this side some months, and the five little ones were left starving in a hovel. A Harlingen physician heard of the situation and "adopted" them until the parents were, through political pressure, brought back. Two of the kiddies had been born on this side hence were American citizens. You see, Rolla, if a couple expecting a baby can sneak across, and the child is born, it is American and must be so treated.  
North of Edinburg there is an inspection station, where every departing vehicle is stopped and searched. Years ago these fellows were pleasant and agreeable, now they are Brooklyn pickups, as nasty as you would want. I was stopped there last year and one asked me, "Are you an American citizen?" I replied, "Hell no, I live in Kansas." I thought he was going to get tough for a moment. I do find most of the border guards now, except the old timers, come from Brooklyn or New Jersey. They wear big hats, carry guns and think themselves of the elite. No planter treats the wetbacks unfairly, for he cannot agree to the labor demands of the valley and he is tickled pink to get this foreign help. I do believe, however, they are badly treated by Mexican contractors, who have camps, such as they are, and have these wetbacks under contract. They haul them about like so many cattle and surely there is a deal between them and the immigration service, for their workers are never disturbed.  
Of course a farmer wanting this kind of help can expect to, well, be kind to the contractor, etc.  
That is a great country, you would profit by going to see it. Jones likes it, I do too, at times, although due to a 4-year drouth it is in bad shape now. We have 40 acres there and expect some day to make it pay--through oil.

Hudson