

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Section 1152, Pages 34531 - 34560

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

Callnumber: Rolla Clymer Coll. #9, Box 1 - 49

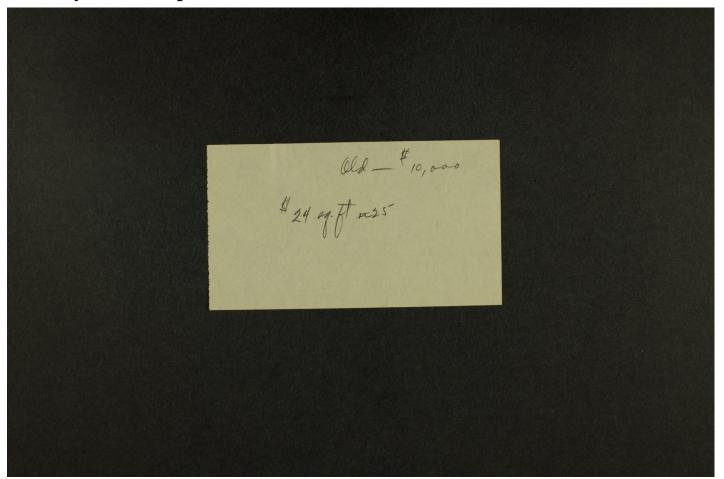
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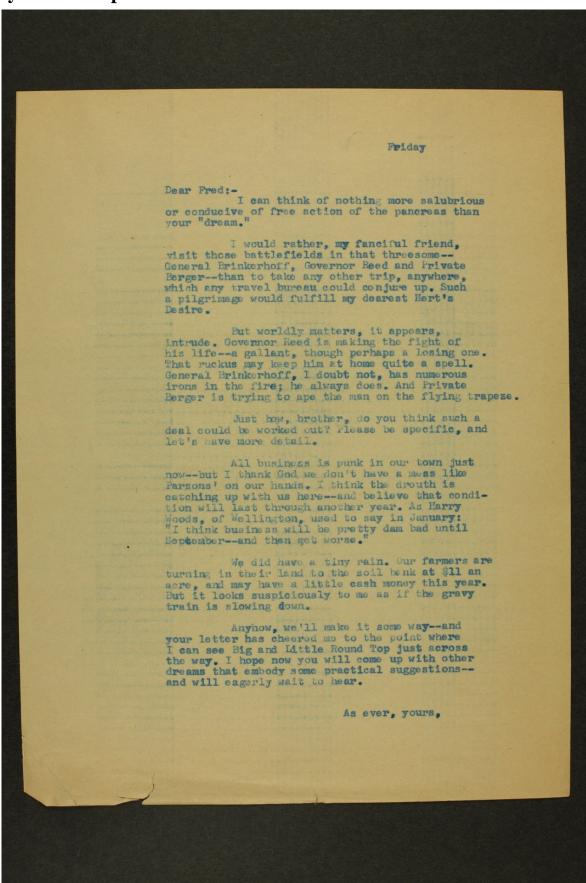
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY











Rolla Clymer correspondence

Statement of Richard W. Robbins Pratt, Kansas

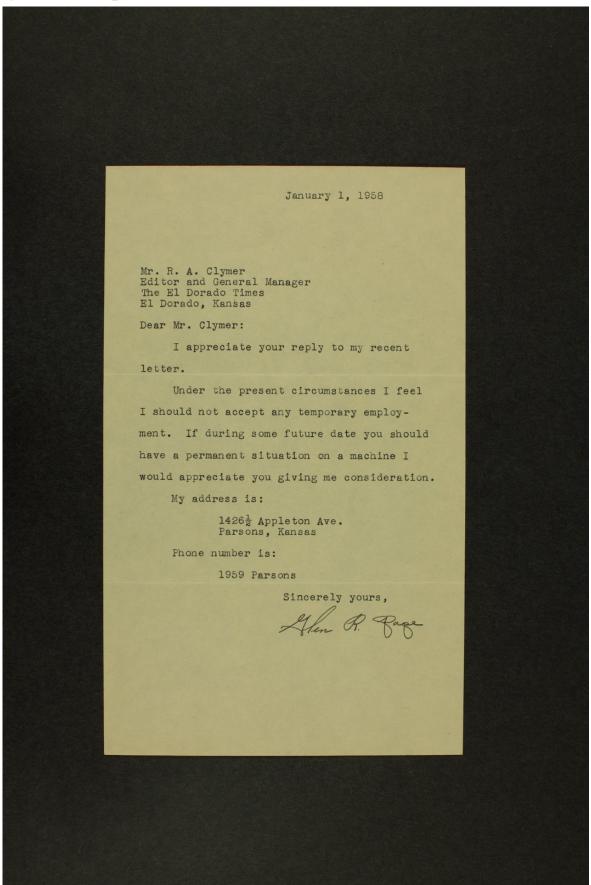
I am not familiar with the figures in Pearsons article about the drouth feed program. From my observation Pearson never permits facts to interfere with his dreaming up a good yarn.

As I understand it, this drouth feed program was set up by the Department of Agriculture to protect foundation herds of cows from being slaughtered due to the prolonged drouth when little or no grass or forage crops was produced over the Southwest area. A continuous decline in numbers of cows would result in a shortage of beef and prohibitive prices of meat. Feed grains which were "surplus" and which were being held by the government at considerable storage and spoilage costs have been sold to owners of cows at prices in some cases below market prices.

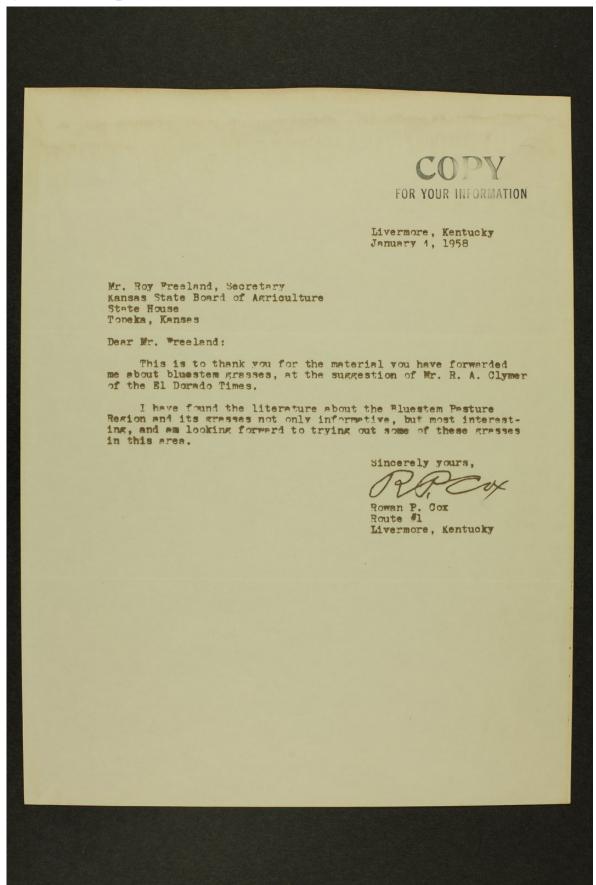
This sale of surplus feed to farmers and ranchers has kept them in the cattle business until the rains came. In our case on account of the prolonged drouth we have year by year reduced our cattle numbers and now own less than one third as many cattle as we owned five years ago when we were getting average rainfall. We have not made a business out of the use of drouth feed but, like most stockmen, simply have been trying to keep our cow herd from being wiped out entirely. As a matter of fact, the amount of our purchase of this so-called drouth feed is but a small fraction of our total purchase of cattle feed, probably less than one per cent.

It should be borne in mind that these so-called "allotments" of drouth feed are passed upon by county committees composed of local ranchers and farmers whose integrity and character cannot be questioned.











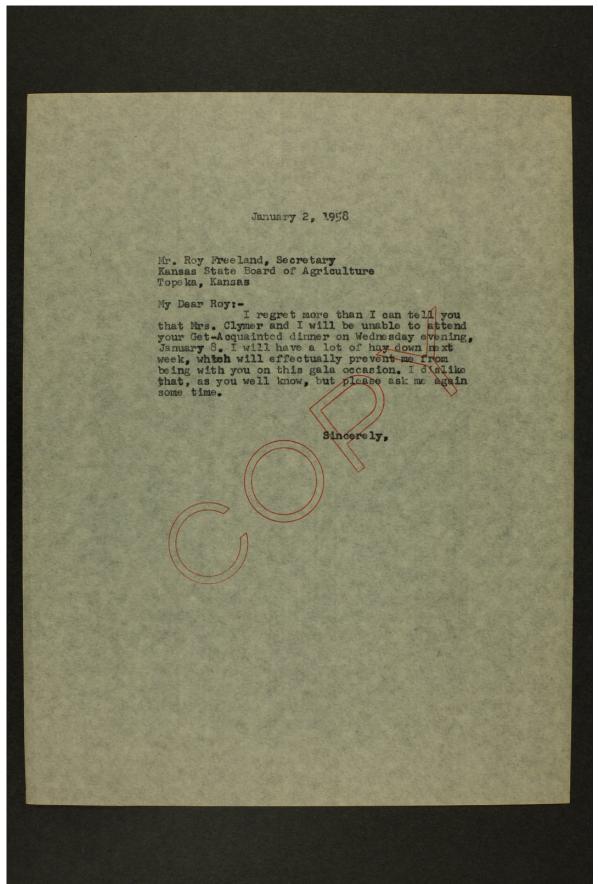
Effective January 1, 1958		Regular Hourly	
Lane	\$103.50	\$2.5875	\$3.88
Maddux	98.00	2.45	3.675
Purdy	98.00	2.45	3.675
Daniels	96.00	2.40	3.60
Whitestine	96.00	2.40	3.60
Johnson	96.00	2.40	3.60
Wall	96.00	2.40	3.60
Anderson	77.00	1.925	2.8825
Huttenhoff(104.50+15.67)	120.17	2,6125	3.91875
Haines 65%	62.40	1.56	2.34
Neutman	107.50	2.6875	4.03125
Evans	96.00	2.40	3.60



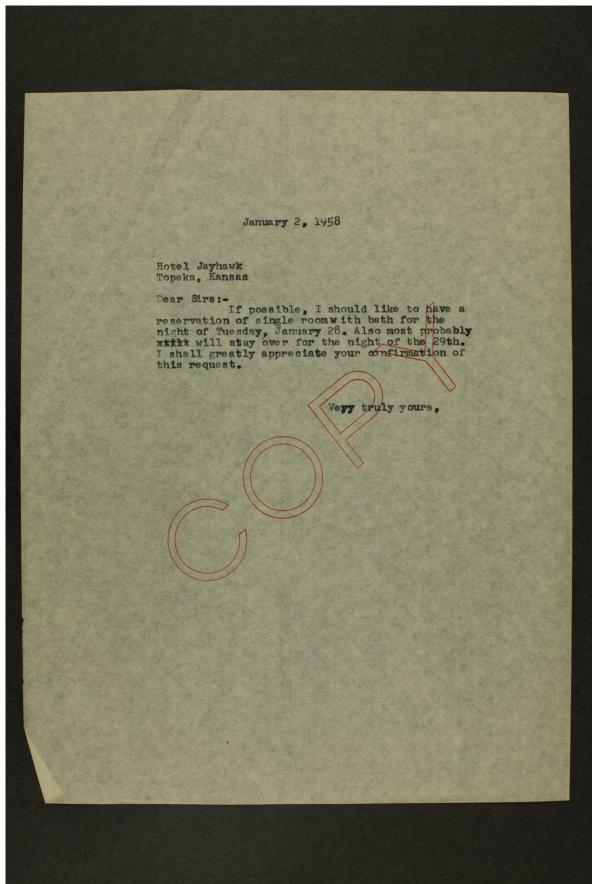
Rolla Clymer correspondence

COMMISSION ON REVISION OF THE KANSAS CONSTITUTION 512 Capitol Federal Bldg.
Topeka, Kansas
January 2, 1958 To Members of the Commission: By decision of your Steering Committee, the Commission will assemble in the State House on Tuesday, January 21, at 10 o'clock a.m., for a one-day meeting. The place will be announced later. Dr. Sandelius wants me to say also that he will send out a suggested list of agenda within the next week or two. Respectfully,

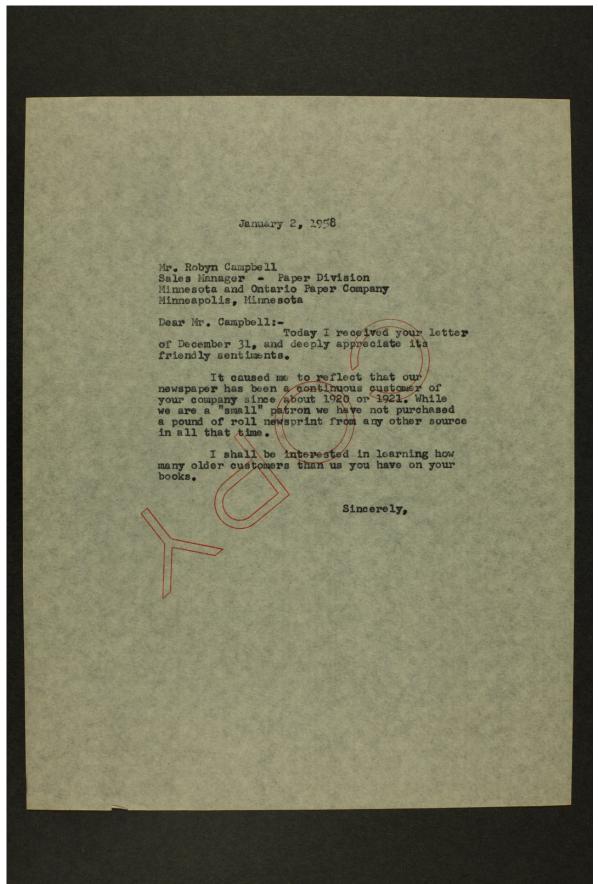














Rolla Clymer correspondence

SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

300 Miller Building Wichita 2, Kansas

January 3, 1958

To: Vice-Chairmen and Directors of the Council

Now that the personnel constituting the leadership of the Council has been selected and the basic form of organization agreed upon, I want to suggest for your consideration some aspects of our proposed program which I feel deserve our attention.

First, let me emphasize the feeling that has been expressed by others, editorially and otherwise: that much of the ultimate success of the group depends upon the quality of leadership which initiates the program. A great deal will depend upon the care and forethought with which we outline and plan our activities. The energy and resourcefulness that we bring to the task will materially affect the influence and usefulness which our tencounty group will actain.

In initiating this work, we are fortunate in many particulars: in having a ten-county area that, measured in terms of population, industry, agriculture, and people, is second to none in the entire nation; in commencing our work at a time that the need for the organization is recognized throughout the area; in having the friendly interest and help of thousands of public-minded citizens; in short, we have the tools, the need and the people -- it is up to us to do the job!

As you all know, our next meeting is at Harper on January 22nd. At this meeting, we expect to hear detailed reports and recommendations from Lynn Lawrence, ElDorado, chairman of the committee on constitution and by-laws, and Don Warner, Wichita, chairman of the committee on plans and procedure.

In connection with the work of these committees, I want to urge all of you to give some constructive thought to the purposes of these committees. Specifically, I suggest that between now and the date of that meeting, each and all of us formulate some specific suggestions as to the general form of organization we believe should be adopted, that we set down in writing some of the areas in which we believe our activities should be directed, giving, with as much detail as possible, the manner and means which we feel are most likely to result in the accomplishment of our purposes, and that we furnish Lynn and Don with the benefits of our thinking prior to the January meeting.

Already I have had many reports from business people over the area indicating the "good" feeling which our group has encouraged, and these meetings within the several counties can and will do much to foster and extend this mutually beneficial attitude. But these meetings will be most successful if each and all of us have done some prior work on them and come prepared to offer some constructive and affirmative action.



Rolla Clymer correspondence

Page 2.

January 3, 1958

As we get further into our work, I think it is highly important that all of the members of the executive committee be constantly on the alert to draw to the attention of the group any projects or movements within the several counties which should have the study and perhaps support of the Council. Your recent prompt and hearty backing of the Dexter helium plant proposal, while it appears it may not develop anything within the near future, nevertheless it was heart-warming encouragement and cheer to those of us in Cowley County. Similar proposals from time to time will warrant the support of our group and as we give our help and support to these undertakings, the usefulness and influence of our Council will grow.

We are fortunate to have the good offices of the Wichita Chamber through which to clear our work and Bill Kratzer will be available at all times to clear matters and to communicate readily with all of us. So as these matters arise, I think it is essential that we each watch our own county closely to see where our Council may be of assistance and, having discovered a worthy undertaking there, we must be quick to act upon it.

As you know, we have endorsed the proposition that what we desire is a loose-knit organization, not operated by professionals, but one that invites the support and help of all public-minded citizens in this area. Ours, then, is not an organization dependent upon "hired" personnel to do the work. It is our job and one to which we must bring our best efforts and to which we must devote the necessary time and energy to make it succeed.

Let me add a personal word: I am deeply honored to be asked by you to serve as chairman, honored more especially because of the high quality of the men who make up this Council. With your help, I am hopefully looking forward to the work and future of the Council, not that it may be just "another organization" but that it may, indeed, fulfill the high expectations and hopes of its sponsors in the initial meeting at Wichita last September when the first big step was made — the recognition of the mutual interdependence of the entire area and the fact that what helps one, in turn, helps all.

With best personal wishes to each of you for the New Year and a genuine hope that it will see our Council on the high road to success, I am,

Sincerely yours,

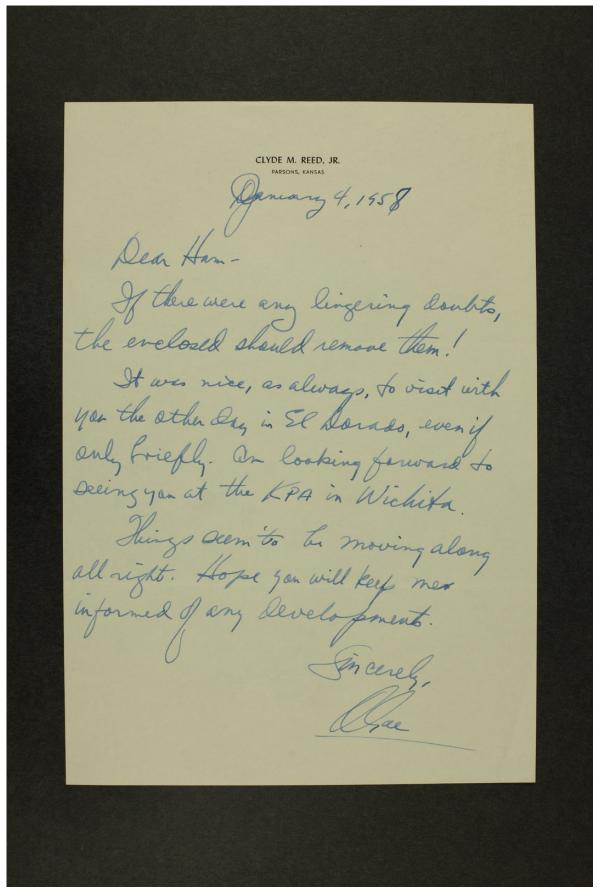
DONALD HICKMAN

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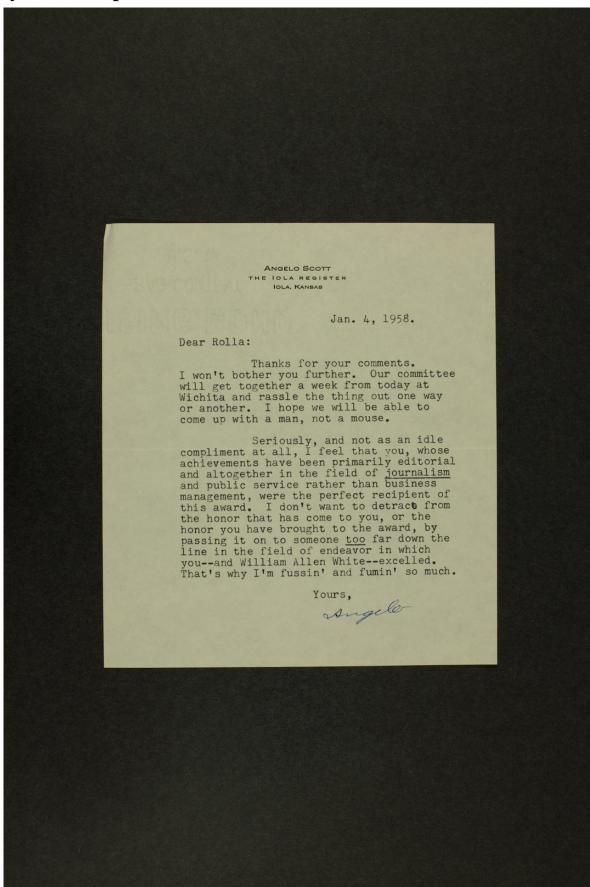
P.S. It is suggested that your comments be forwarded to the committee chairmen, Lynn Lawrence of El Dorado, and Don Warner of Wichita, as soon as possible, in order that such suggestions can be taken into consideration by the respective committees prior to the January 22 board meeting.

D.H.









Mr. R. A. Clymer, Editor The El Dorado Times El Dorado, Kansas

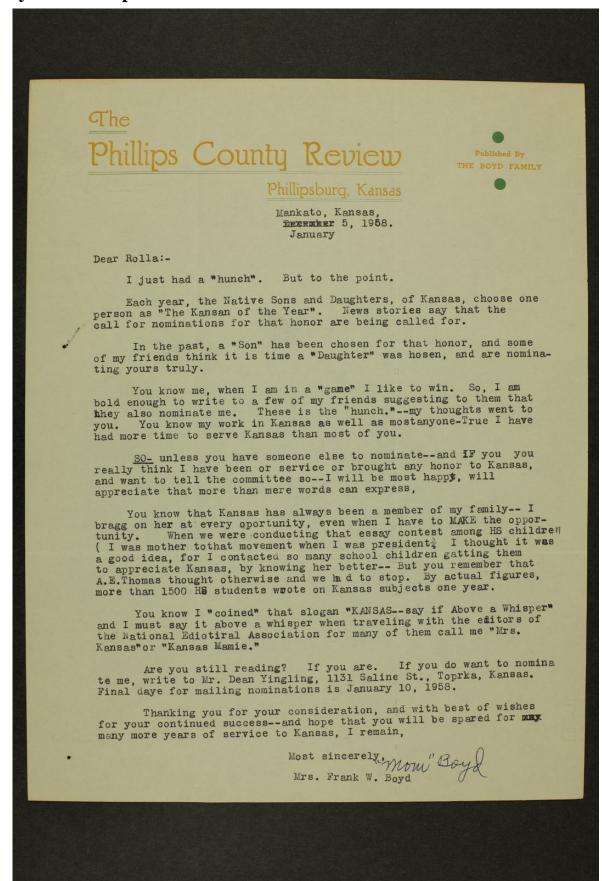
Dear Mr. Clymer:



Rolla Clymer correspondence

Livermore, Kentucky January 4, 1958 This is to thank you for your trouble and kindness in helping to secure answers to my questions about bluestem grass, and also to acknowledge return of the \$2.00. Mr. Roy Freeland of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, as requested by you, has provided me with quite a bit of information about the bluestem grasses. Included also, in material furnished me, were some writings of yours, which I have enjoyed very much. I am this day writing to Ur. A. H. Gish about seeds and methods of planting, and am looking forward to trying out these seeds in this area. Rowan P. Cox Route #1 Livermore, Kentucky







Rolla Clymer correspondence

821 West Olive El Dorado, Kansas January 5, 1958

Mr. R. A. Clymer Editor, El Dorado Times El Dorado, Kansas

Dear Mr. Clymer:

I understand that you have been trying to contact me--unsuccessfully--and I have been trying to contact you--also unsuccessfully. At the time you called, I was out-of-town. I came by your office twice and called your home once, but unfortunately you were not there at the time.

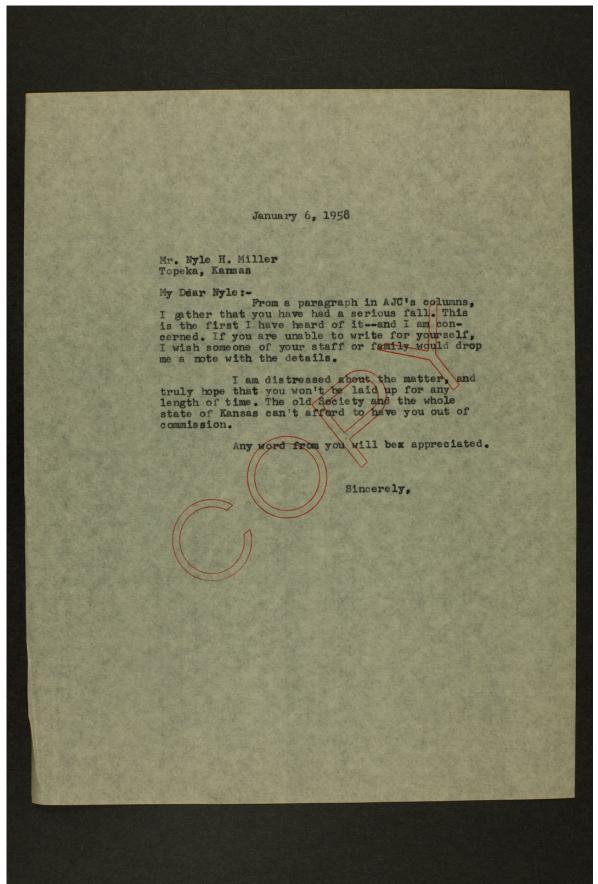
Before leaving for school today, I'm writing this letter to tell you how much I appreciated your offer to work at the Times. It's a paper I would be proud to be associated with, but I have decided against that type of work. What I would like right now is a position on a magazine staff—possibly beginning in the research department. Later I'd like to go into public relations.

Mr. Clymer, I thought this over for a long time and seriously considered it. But, I feel, for the kind of work I eventually want to work into, perhaps it would be better if I secure a job elsewhere. I was so pleased to be asked to work for my hometown newspaper, and I do want to thank you very much for considering me.

Sincerely,

marilyn M: Knight







Rolla Clymer correspondence

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January 6, 1958

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Editor and Manager The El Dorado Times El Dorado, Kansas

Rolla A. Clymer

Dear Rolla:

The annual meeting of the board of trustees of the William Allen White Foundation will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, February 10, in the William Allen White Memorial Reading Room and Historical Center, Flint Hall, University of Kansas. Luncheon will be at 12:30 p.m. in the Kansas Room of the Union Building, and, as in the last four years, the Certificate of Journalistic Merit will be presented at that time to a Kansas editor. At 3 p.m. the first annual presentation of the Foundation's national recognition for journalistic merit will be made to Jenkin Lloyd Jones, editor of The Tulsa Tribune and immediate past president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Immediately following the presentation he will deliver the ninth annual William Allen White Lecture.

LAWRENCE

Members of the board also are invited to attend a dinner in honor of Mr. Jones, sponsored by Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic fraternity -- at 6 p.m. in the Kansas Room of the Union Building.

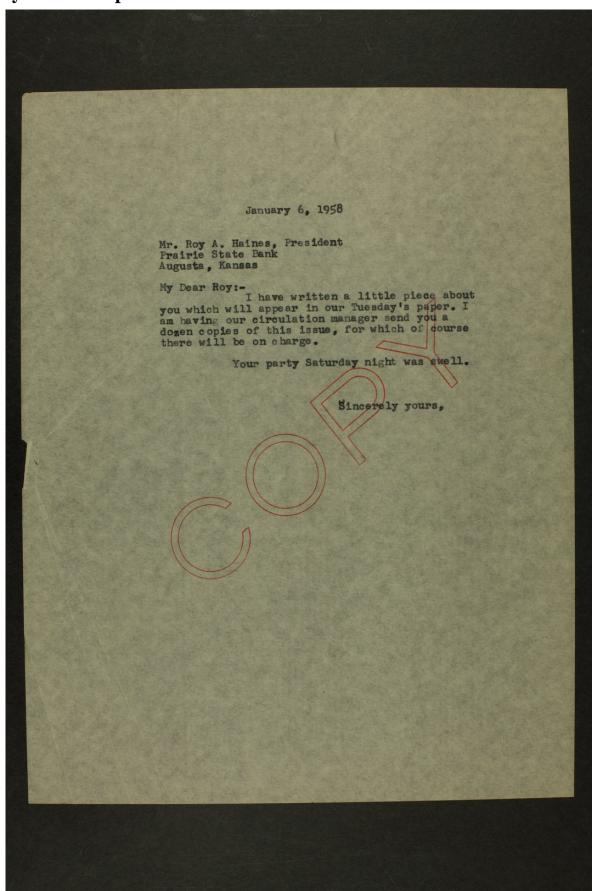
This is preliminary notice of the board meeting. More details will be sent later, along with my annual director's report. We hope, of course, that you can be with us and shall appreciate word from you as to whether you can attend. We shall be glad to make hotel or motel reservations for you if you will let us know for which night or nights you want them.

Sincerely yours,

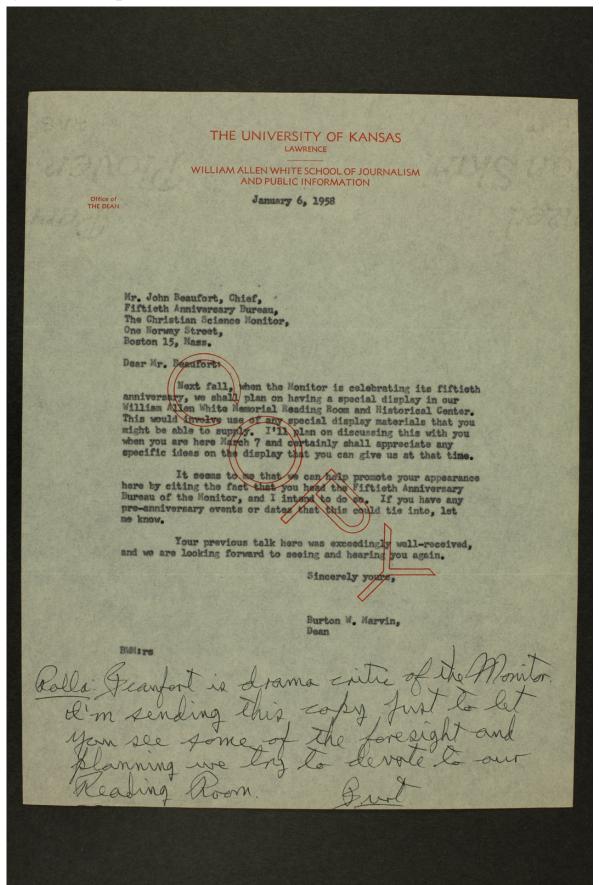
Burton W. Marvin,

P.S. -- If you wish to suggest persons for election as trustees of the Foundation, please submit name or names to me by February 1.

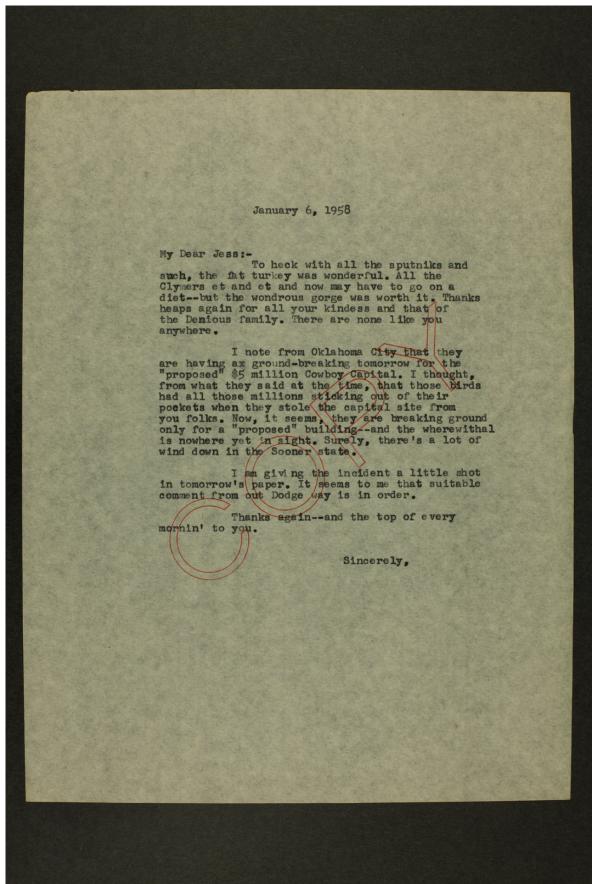




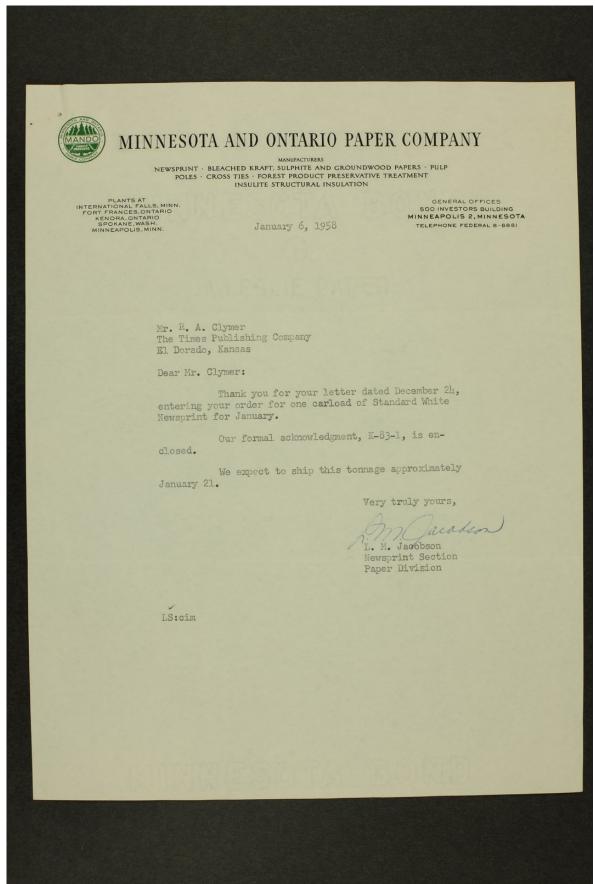




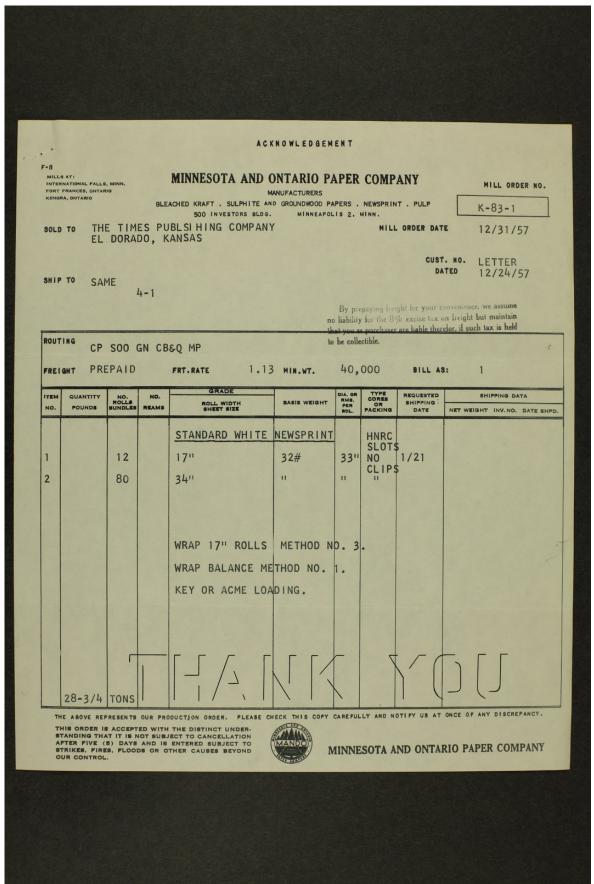




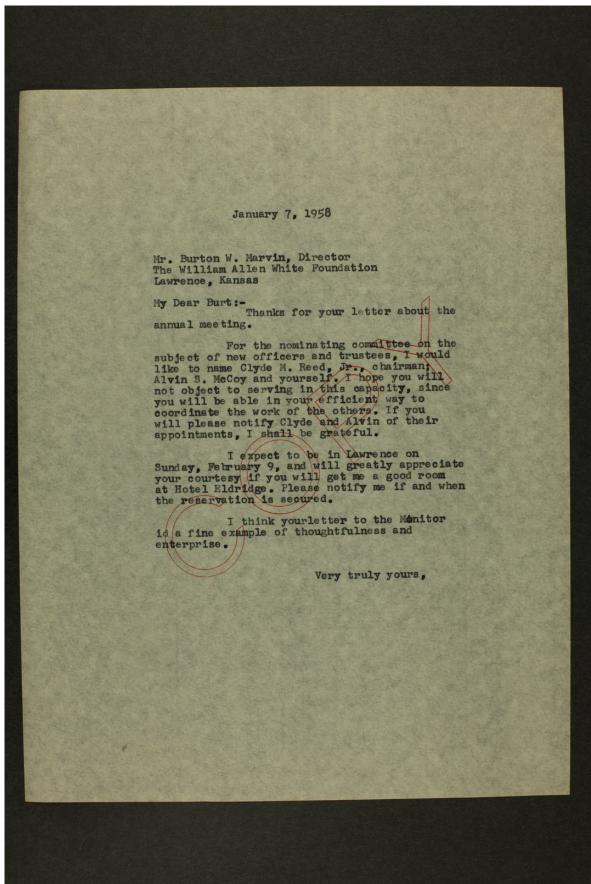




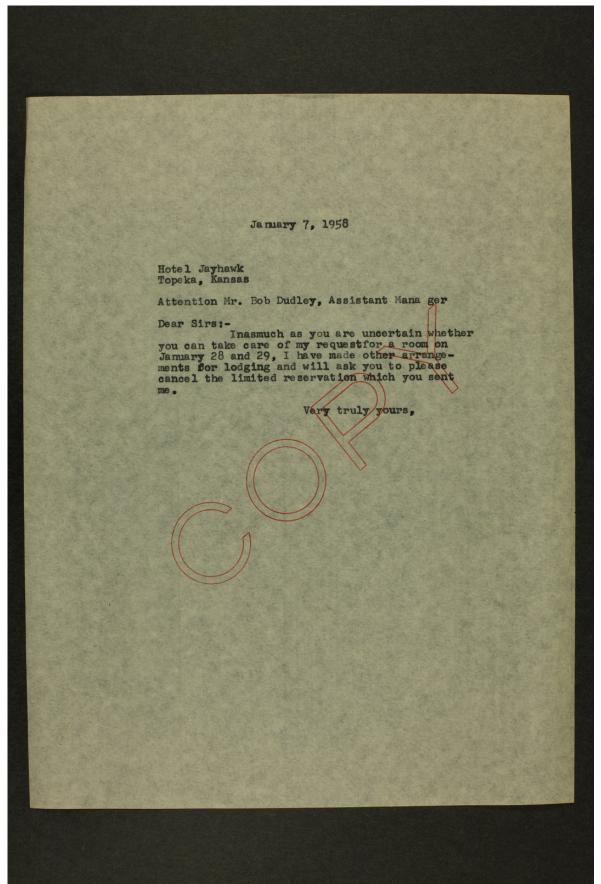














Rolla Clymer correspondence

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January 7, 1958

Mr. Rolla A. Clymer The El Dorado Times El Dorado, Kansas

Dear Rolla:

Things were icing up as I returned home from work the evening of December 30. After I got my orders, I started for the grocery store. I knew the walks were getting slippery and I tried to be careful. But, damnit, when I reached the end of our walk, instead of taking the three steps down in normal fashion I took off like a jet. Being fueled improperly, I could only manage a three-point crash landing, the three points being the edges of the steps over which I whacked my back.

Sparing you some of the details I finally consented to apply at the hospital for a checkup. Xrays showed a fracture of a vertebra and I was held there for three days. And, brother, that's a safe and quiet place to spend New Year's eve. Ten minutes after taking my sleeping capsule at 10 p. m., I was asleep. Thus my year changed for me on the discordant and unexciting notes of my own snores.

Unfortunately when the press and the radio checked on accidents the hospital listed me with a back fracture and said my condition was "fair." I would have disputed that, had I had the chance. But, in justice to the hospital news-giver-outer, I suppose it was figured, at my age, that "fair" was the best grade that could be given me. Nevertheless the cold hard words sounded as if I were the next thing to being measured for the metal sheath.

It was warming the way my friends rallied. However I regret having them alarmed unnecessarily. I consider that I'm in better than "fair" condition, even at 50.

At present I'm hooked in a brace, bearing more aches and pains than I had ten days ago, but I'm going to live awhile longer.

 $I^{\prime}m$ spending a little time at the office each day and I hope it won't be long before it will all be a memory.

I surely appreciate your concern, Rolla, and I'm glad to be able to tell you that things are coming along as well as anyone could hope, for which I'm duly thankful to everyone in the line, up to and especially including that Top Guy.



