

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Section 1156, Pages 34651 - 34680

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

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 229011

Item Identifier: 229011

www.kansasmemory.org/item/229011

Rolla Clymer correspondence

[Jan. 31, 1958]

Dear Rolla:-

Shirley did enjoy your letter and it really is wonderful to hear from one we knew in our youth. I wrote to Flora Abell and in her reply did not know very much about the address of other school mates but her sister May is a widow and lives in Luenemo now so Flora said would write to May and see if she could get the address of some of them. Flora wrote that Winnie Lane married a Roy Nelson and lived near Jaramona till her death many years ago. Flora's husband was killed in a car wreck in 1940 while May's husband was killed in a tractor accident in 1957. Rolla I have a school group picture just the high-school taken in the winter of 1905 I think. In looking it over I can not name all of them for it has just been so long ago. My face does not change much with the years for folks say that in 40 years it looks much the same. Many guess me to be 10 years younger than I am. You remember I was tall 6ft one inch and today I weigh 195 lbs but it is well divided over my tall frame so one would not call me fat or lean either. Thanks for sending those papers and after 40 years getting out a paper like that will just to be honest with you think you need a rest. So let your son take over and you get out and play awhile or take over

Rolla Clymer correspondence

some trips you have thought of but never got around
to taking them. It could add years to your life.
Just think it over. Floor writes she has traveled around
to many places of interest. She has one daughter while
May has two. She had visited here in the Ozarks
on two occasions. I am planning now on fishing trips
next summer. The streams are small near here so have
a friend that is acquainted over on James River south
of Springfield and a noted fishing stream. Hope I can
pull in some good ones over there. Just think of the
changes in our day. When I was in the 20's in
years corn they was husked by hand and most
of us then could crib 100 bushel of corn in a day.
Then the hay we picked twice of it. Today it is all
done by machinery. If we could live 50 years
longer is no telling what changes would be in that
time. But these youngsters of today are just for
pushing a button and let machinery do the work.
Now Rolla I know you are a busy man so do not expect
you to just sit down and write me but when you can
I would certainly be pleased to hear from you. Hope some
day you can come over here in the Ozarks and we want
you to come by and see me. Now we are just common people
and have a modest little home here. Nothing fancy about us
yet we are known as friendly people. If I learn the
whereabouts of some others may write you where they are. ^{Sincerely} Ross J-

Rolla Clymer correspondence

January 31, 1958

Mrs. Gail French Peterson
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Mrs. Peterson:-

Upon receipt of your letter, I made contact with the law firm of Bond & Bond. The elder Bond is absent on a foreign trip, but the son, Robert M. Bond, has investigated the matter you mention. For some reason, it seems to have been sidetracked but I am convinced there will be no more delay. I also feel certain that you will hear from Robert Bond at once.

If you do not get the action you require in this case, let me know and I shall help you if I can.

Very truly yours,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

300 Miller Building
Wichita 2, Kansas

January 31, 1958

To: Board of Directors

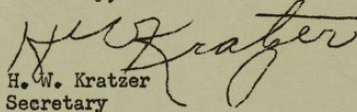
At our meeting in Harper on January 29 it was suggested that arrangements be made for a meeting with personnel of the K.I.D.C. and as many of the directors of our organization as were available to be scheduled in Topeka on February 5. The Secretary was instructed to contact the director of the K.I.D.C. in connection with this matter.

An appointment has been made with John Sticher, Chairman of the K.I.D.C., and the other members of his staff at 12 noon February 5 in the office of the K.I.D.C. in Topeka.

It is Mr. Sticher's thinking that our group can have lunch in the cafeteria at 12:30 and return to their conference room for our discussion.

In order that we may have an indication as to the number who will be present, will you please return the enclosed card immediately.

Sincerely,


H. W. Kratzer
Secretary

HWK/pja

Enclosure



THE ALBURN BUREAU

Box 6135 • Minneapolis 24, Minnesota

Telephone WALnut 2-4555

January 31, 1958

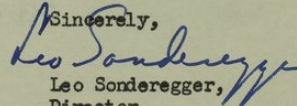
Mr. R.A. Clymer
Editor,
The El Dorado Times
El Dorado, Kansas

Dear Mr. Clymer:


This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter asking us to cancel the editorial service as of the 31st. Your final mailing went out today.

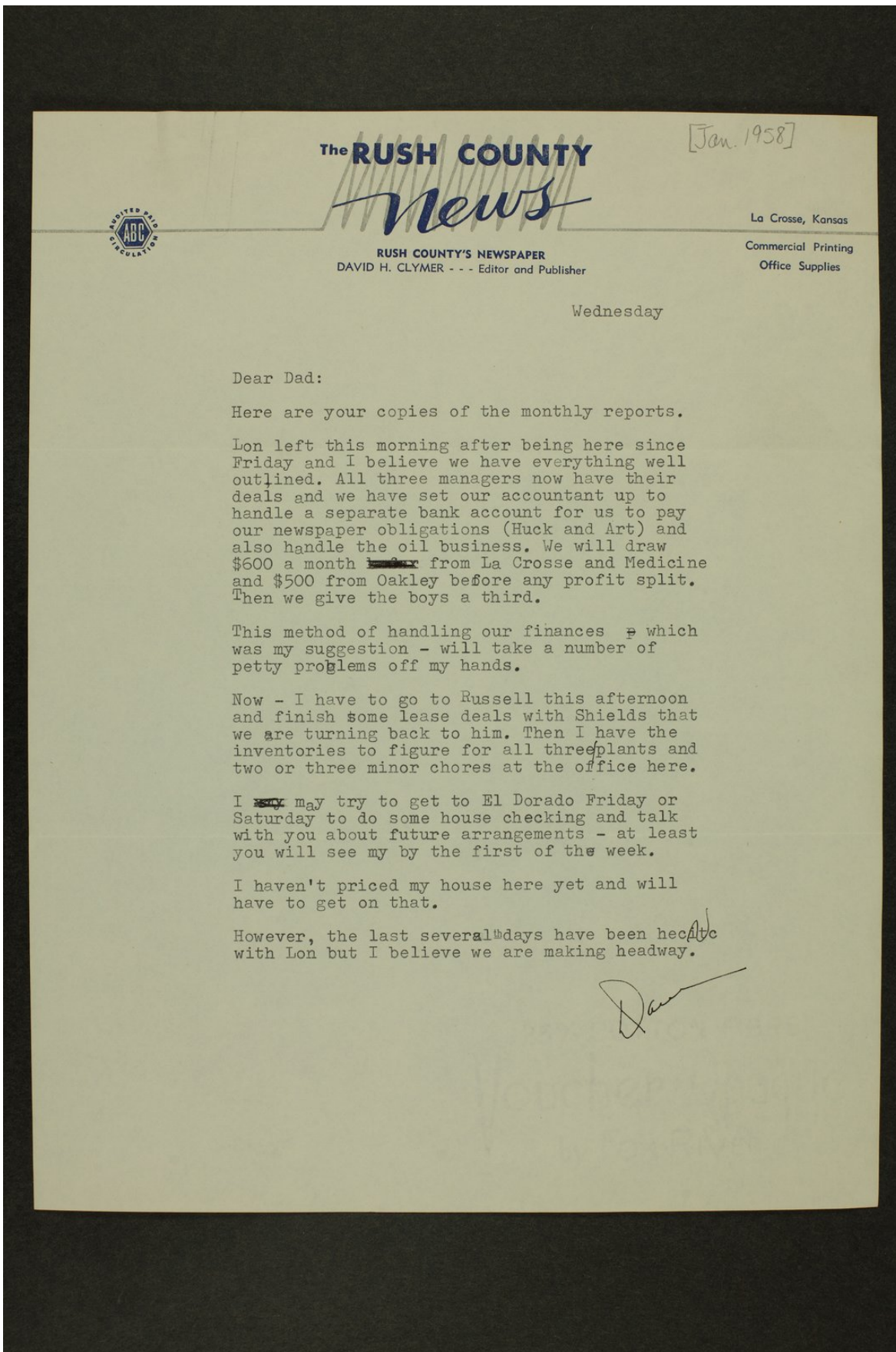
It is good to know that you have liked our service and found it useful. I am also pleased to learn that you feel you may want to resume the service after awhile. We are geared so that we could start supplying copy again on short notice, and we will be most happy to do so.

In the meantime, you have our best wishes.

Sincerely,

Leo Sonderegger,
Director

IS/bh

A distinguished editorial service for newspapers  since 1914



The **RUSH COUNTY**
News

[Jan. 1958]



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

La Crosse, Kansas

Commercial Printing
Office Supplies

Wednesday

Dear Dad:

Here are your copies of the monthly reports.

Lon left this morning after being here since Friday and I believe we have everything well outlined. All three managers now have their deals and we have set our accountant up to handle a separate bank account for us to pay our newspaper obligations (Huck and Art) and also handle the oil business. We will draw \$600 a month ~~from~~ from La Crosse and Medicine and \$500 from Oakley before any profit split. Then we give the boys a third.

This method of handling our finances ~~is~~ which was my suggestion - will take a number of petty problems off my hands.

Now - I have to go to Russell this afternoon and finish some lease deals with Shields that we are turning back to him. Then I have the inventories to figure for all three plants and two or three minor chores at the office here.

I ~~may~~ may try to get to El Dorado Friday or Saturday to do some house checking and talk with you about future arrangements - at least you will see my by the first of the week.

I haven't priced my house here yet and will have to get on that.

However, the last several ~~the~~ days have been hectic with Lon but I believe we are making headway.

Dad



The **RUSH COUNTY**
News

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

La Crosse, Kansas

Commercial Printing
Office Supplies

Wednesday (again)

Dear Dad -

I called John Harrison this afternoon to see if anything might be pressing house-wise that would necessitate a trip this weekend.

He had nothing to report so I plan to postpone my next trip to El Dorado until the first of the week - unless this boy at KU wants an interview Sunday afternoon.

In such event, I will drive down Sunday morning and be there for a day or two.

If not, I will probably ~~not~~ drive down Monday.

dave

Rolla Clymer correspondence

[Jan 1958]

Mrs. G. E. Kassebaum

Glen Haven Farm, Eldorado, Kansas

Dear Rolla Clymer:

I'd rather take a thrashing than write this note to you but write it I must. One of the dumbest things I ever did was to recommend James Cousins' latest to you (perhaps you don't even recall my having done so, but I don't dare count on that) after having merely read the opening chapter or so the night before. It had been highly recommended to me and I liked (I like NONE of it now) the opening chapter which I thought delineated the character of his mother and father so keenly that it portended the delightful tale I had been led to expect. So I went off on a tangent leading someone else to expect! How stupid can I get!

In reading on, I was flabbergasted. If I hadn't been such a dismayed, stupid coward I'd have at least written a brief note retracting my implied endorsement of the whole trashy thing. Your panning of it in the paper tonight scourged me into this doubtless ineffective but nevertheless earnest action. Please, I am no longer one of the "~~Best~~" People who doted on the work".

Believe me,

Sincerely yours,

Esther Kassebaum

Rolla Clymer correspondence

February 1, 1958

Mr. John E. McIntyre, Director
Department of Public Welfare
Riverside County
Corona, California

Attention Mrs. Elsie H. Walker

Dear Sir:-

I regret that we can find no information concerning Estal C. Dettinger, who says he once sold papers for the El Dorado Times in about the year 1918.

As a matter of fact, there was no El Dorado Times in that year. Two daily papers were published here at that time--the Walnut Valley Times and the El Dorado Republican. These were merged into the present El Dorado Times in December, 1919. We do not have access to the records of these older papers--and our presumption is that such records probably have been lost or destroyed in the intervening period.

For the benefit of Mr. Dettinger, we would sincerely like to be of help. Under the circumstances, however, we can offer no information which would be valid.

Very truly yours,



W. H. SCHWINN
TOM L. SCHWINN

FAIRFAX 6-4484

LAW OFFICES OF
SCHWINN & SCHWINN
107 EAST LINCOLN
WELLINGTON, KANSAS
2 February, 1958

R. A. Clymer
The Eldorado Times
Eldorado, Kansas

Dear Rolla:

Thanks for sending me the expression
of your thoughts about Pat. It was a just tribute
to a fine citizen of our dear country.

Pat is now engaged in the bold advent-
ure of the hereafter and you and I know, because we
knew him here, that he will conduct himself properly.

Sincerely yours,



Rolla Clymer correspondence

TOPEKA • PUBLIC • LIBRARY

HORACE S. MOSES, LIBRARIAN

1515 W. 10TH ST., TOPEKA, KANSAS

February 2, 1958

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

Dear Mr. Clymer:

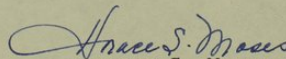
I have your letter of January 16, and have wondered what progress you have been able to make in the solution of your problem. I know it must be a trial to your Board. Seven years ago now our Board was in the midst of a similar situation. After due deliberation, and against much advice and public sentiment our present site was chosen. We have never had cause to regret our decision. It was our experience that those who knew least about the library had the most positive opinions regarding its location and operation. Finally we had to ignore those opinions.

My particular point in writing you at this time is to remind you that I will be out of the state through the month of March. I will leave February 24th and return during the week of April 6th. During this time I will be visiting a number of eastern universities, where I will be a guest lecturer, and transacting business for our library. I felt you should know about my plans in case you would need me. My only commitment is that I must be here for our Board meeting February 19th. There is a library planning meeting to be held on February 17th at McPherson, but probably I won't try to attend unless I am particularly needed.

I have heard from Mr. Caton and have his latest sketches and have gone over them carefully. As Mr. Caton suggests, there is little need to give the present sketches much work, since there will be many changes possible. I am quite sure Mr. Caton will want to change his overall plan to conform to a new building site.


Should you feel I can be of any assistance in meeting some of your problems, please feel free to call on me.

Sincerely yours,


Horace S. Moses

hsm/mm

Rolla Clymer correspondence

<p>REGENT MISS MAUDE HAVER DOUGLASS, KANSAS</p> <p>VICE-REGENT MRS. NELSON KILBOURN STERLING, KANSAS</p> <p>CHAPLAIN MRS. H. B. GABBERT ASHLAND, KANSAS</p> <p>RECORDING SECRETARY MISS PAULINE COWGER BOX 51 SALINA, KANSAS</p> <p>CORRESPONDING SECRETARY MRS. GEORGE Y. STEWART 3338 VICTOR PLACE WICHITA, KANSAS</p>	 <p>Kansas Society Daughters of the American Revolution</p> <p>from the desk of the STATE REGENT DOUGLASS, KANSAS</p>	<p>TREASURER MRS. JOHN M. FELLER 200 FIFTH AVENUE LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS</p> <p>REGISTRAR MRS. G. D. WEILEPP 1246 SOUTH HICKORY OTTAWA, KANSAS</p> <p>HISTORIAN MRS. ROBERT CHESNEY 145 NORTH CRESTWAY WICHITA, KANSAS</p> <p>LIBRARIAN MRS. V. L. DURR R. F. D. JETMORE, KANSAS</p> <p>STATE REPORTER MRS. C. H. RESER HAMILTON, KANSAS</p>
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February 3

Mr. Rolla Clymer,
President State Historical Soc.,
B. P. Dorado, Kansas

Dear Mr. Clymer:

We would like to have you
attend our banquet and meeting at our
State Conference, March 14, 1958, 7:00 P.M.
Roof Garden, Jayhawk Hotel.

The subject of our program that evening
is "Our Godly Heritage in Kansas". Senator
Schaeppel is ~~to~~ to be our speaker. Mr. Robert
H. Chesney, Wichita, our State Historian, will
preside. We would like you to give a five-
or six minute greeting or talk.

We do hope you will find it convenient to
attend as our guest.

Sincerely,
Maude Haver



Rolla Clymer correspondence

Concordia

Feb 3

Dear Rolla:

Thanks for the prompt answer to my letter. I can't really say that I'm sorry you aren't in the race. You'd make a darned good governor, and you just might get elected. But it's a nasty job. So I'll let you off the hook this time, seeing as you've served your state in many, ~~many~~ many ways, especially with your paper.

You don't see me becuse, since my mothers illness which began three years ago, I haven't been getting around ~~much~~ much. And you are never in these parts. Will you be ~~out~~ out campaigning with Clyd Reed? You could do him a lot of good. Come in and see me if you are in this part of the state.

Sincerely,

Marion Ellet

Rolla Clymer correspondence

February 4, 1956

Mr. Horace S. Moses
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Mr. Moses:-

I thank you for your letter which is adequate evidence of your continuing interest in our problem. We are now approaching the city commission with the suggestion that we might swap sites of municipal-owned property. The tract we have in mind is the old Washington school building, still unoccupied after five or six years since a new elementary building was completed, on a block of ground in the residential section. If the commission is favorable, we might move to that spot, raze the old school structure and build an entirely new library building there. We figure that the tearing down of an old, outmoded, obsolete and unused structure might cause less furor among the sovereign squats than if we attempted to root out the present library building. Then, too, is the additional factor of parking space--which has grown to be a serious problem in recent years.

I note what you say about being out of the state during March. If any move transpires, I shall let you know before your departure. Again, if you will let me know where you might be reached during your travels, I shall keep you informed of any new developments.

Very truly yours,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

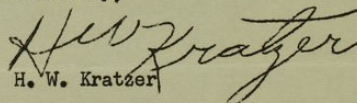
300 Miller Building
Wichita 2, Kansas

February 4, 1958

To: Directors

In order that each director may have a complete list of those who have participated in the Council meetings to date we are enclosing a copy of participants who have signed the register at the Wichita meeting of September 26 and the Winfield meeting of November 20 of last year. The list, you will note, includes the names of those from your county.

Sincerely,


H. W. Kratzer

Executive Secretary

HWK/pja

SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NAME	ADDRESS	HOME PHONE	BUS. PHONE
Donald Hickman	P. O. Box 621 Arkansas City	1617	52 or 53
Rolla Clymer	118 E. Central El Dorado	745	38 or 39
Nestor Weigand	110 N. Main Wichita	MU 6-5166	AM 2-6408
H. W. Kratzer	300 Miller Bldg. Wichita	MU 2-8640	FO 3-1247
Harry Bauersfeld	Wellington	FA 6-2177	FA 6-5337
Louis G. Charlton	125 Sixth St. W. Newton	2546	707 or 708
J. D. Conway	416 N. Cherry McPherson	2038	880
Lynn Lawrence	Petroleum Bldg. El Dorado	2816	107 or 3313
William M. Pierce	P. O. Box 260 Marion	370	475
Wayne Poland	Kingman	35	35
Don P. Warner	P. O. Box 2161 Wichita	MU 2-1353	FO 3-6231
Dale W. Whitaker	107 W. First Ave. Hutchinson	MO 5-7604	MO 2-2341
R. H. Zimmerman	Harper	9071	9201

Rolla Clymer correspondence

February 4, 1958

Mrs. Clarke M. Thomas
Wichita, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Thomas:-

While I am a member of the state committee for constitutional revision, I have been unable to attend any sessions up to this time. Dr. Walter Sandelius, chairman, has kindly granted me permission not to participate actively in committee discussions until after some of my other state jobs have been finished. The last of these as president of the William Allen White Foundation expires next Monday. After that, I intend to attend committee meetings regularly and catch up, if I can, with the progress of the deliberations.

Therefore, I am not familiar with the questions which you have propounded for the workshop of the Kansas League of Women Voters on February 20, and certainly would hesitate in offering answers. It does not appear that I could be able to help you. I suggest that you write to Dr. Sandelius, at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, and no doubt he will be able to suggest someone from the committee who would be able to meet your requirements.

Very truly yours,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

League of Women Voters



Wichita, Kansas

4015 Hammond Drive
Wichita, Kansas
February 4, 1958

Mr. Rolla Clymer
The Eldorado Times
Eldorado, Kansas

Dear Mr. Clymer:

The Kansas League of Women Voters has adopted a two year study item on our state constitution: "Kansas Constitution: Evaluate and Revise". The Wichita League is planning an all day workshop for its entire membership, plus other leagues over the state, on February 20 to initiate the study. The purpose of this letter is to invite you to participate in this workshop. You have been highly recommended to us both from the standpoint of your newspaper experience and membership on the State Commission and your ability as a speaker.

Let me briefly outline our plans for the day and give you a general idea of the topics we wish to cover and the areas where we wish you to participate. Other speakers will be Honorable Clifford Hope, Justice Hugo Weddell, and Dr. Hugo Wall.

Our workshop will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. During the morning we will have a panel discussion on state governmental functions and the constitution: "Does the Kansas Constitution Provide the Best Basic Law for Kansas?" We hope that from such a discussion needs for revision would naturally arise. We would like to include executive, legislative, judicial and local governmental functions. In other words we're aiming at what's wrong with our constitution the way it is.

During the afternoon we will deal more specifically with the legislative and judiciary branches with talks by Justice Weddell and Congressman Hope. Then we would like to close the session with the problem that seems biggest of all--How do we go about working for revision? We would like you to talk about thirty minutes on this subject.

Here are a few questions you might cover:

On what basis would a Constitutional Convention be called?
Present apportionment? Who would be members?

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Will a revised constitution be presented to voters in its entirety, either to accept or reject as a whole?

Discuss political feasibility of revision. If too many drastic changes are made will there be so many divergent groups opposed as to make defeat almost inevitable?

Is there any method other than convention for revising since our present constitution makes no provision for initiative and referendum?

What methods of study and research should precede an effort toward revision?

Could our constitution be greatly benefitted by revision through amendments, or does it need a complete overhauling?

What is the Kansas Commission on Constitutional Revision? What are its duties? Powers? Budget? Term?

The above are not listed in order of importance or any special sequence. Its just a starting point. If you have other topics you wish to discuss please feel free to say so.

Since February 20 is rapidly approaching, we would like to have an answer soon so that we may arrange publicity. To expedite things, I will call you on Wednesday morning, February 5.

We will of course cover your traveling expenses. We are arranging a press conference, and would also like two glossy prints of yourself for use in newspaper publicity.

We certainly hope you can arrange to be with us for the workshop. We think your newspaper experience and general knowledge of Kansas will give us some valuable insights on constitutional revision which we might not otherwise get.

I shall look forward to talking with you by phone on Wednesday morning.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Clarke M. Thomas

Mrs. Clarke M. Thomas

Rolla Clymer correspondence

February 4, 1938

Miss Maude Haver
Douglass, Kansas

Dear Miss Haver:-

I am no longer president of the Kansas State Historical Society, as my term ran out last October. Alan W. Farley, of Kansas City, is now the president. I do not know his street address but no doubt Wyle H. Miller, society secretary, Topeka, can supply it.

Very truly yours,

COPY

Rolla Clymer correspondence

RICHARD ROBBINS
413 N. Main St. Phone GREENwood 2-3215
PRATT, KANSAS

February 5, 1958

Dear Rolla:

Surely liked your editorial entitled "Georgia's Little Joke" as re-published in the Pratt Tribune for January 29th.

Sorry we didn't get together for more of a "gabfest" at Topeka. That is merely postponed.

Yours,

Dick



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February 6, 1958

Mr. E. F. Adams
Time Publishing Company
El Dorado, Kansas

PLEASE REPLY TO NEW YORK OFFICE

Dear Mr. Adams:

Last year I visited scores of publishers in their own town, talking to them in their office, their club or their home, about newspaper conditions and values.

I would like to have a chance this year to talk with you. All of us from this office are constantly traveling because we believe that 1958 is a year when newspaper properties will be sold for high prices and as of now buyers are still able and willing to pay high prices.

Can I have a visit with you at no obligation on your part and when would be a good time to come? I'd appreciate your response and, of course, a chat between us implies no obligation that you will either sell your property or purchase another.

I would enjoy an exchange of philosophy with you and perhaps can add something to your own thinking.

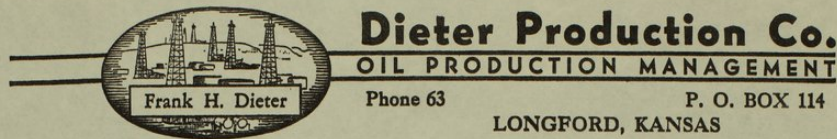
Kind regards.

Sincerely,

Allen Kander

AK/tr

Rolla Clymer correspondence



8 February 58

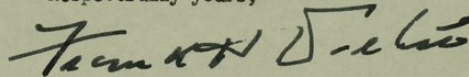
The El Dorado Times,
El Dorado,
Kansas.

Gentlemen:-

Please mail me a dollars worth of your Feb. 7th times.,
I want only the issue that has R.A. Clymers editorial
Natural but Unfortunate trend. m This is the editorial
on Willis Hartman's predicament. I only care for the
Editorial page, Keep the rest and save me postage.

Thanking you, #I am.

Respectfully yours,





Rolla Clymer correspondence

ROSS COUNTY DISTRICT LIBRARY
RAYMOND EMBREE, LIBRARIAN
53 West Fourth St.
CHILLICOTHE, OHIO

February 8, 1958

Mr. Rolla Clymer,
El Dorado, Kansas

Dear Mr. Clymer:

My weekly letter from my mother this time contained a clipping from the TIMES dated January 23, giving the annual report of the El Dorado library, and an editorial deploring the lack of adult use of the library's facilities.

As a home-town boy, I'm still interested in what goes on in El Dorado, and most particularly in the library there. Anna Louise Borger and I are cousins of some degree--her grandmother, Bess Arnall, was my great aunt. I still remember vividly the real highlight of my sixth birthday, when my mother took me to the library--the building was new then--and I received a borrower's card in my own name. I remember also taking a book home, and reading it in perhaps an hour, then going back to the library to exchange it for another one. Most of all, I remember when I ran into a library regulation which would not allow a book taken to be returned the same day and another taken. I hope that rule is no longer effective.

Like you, I'm disappointed that the people of El Dorado, the adults, that is, don't seem to be making much use of the library. I think I see all the reasons very plainly in the library's annual report, though. If you don't mind, I'd like to give a librarian's analysis of some of the possible reasons for such small adult circulation.

The chief reason that no more adults are using the library is that you don't have enough books, and particularly you aren't buying enough new books. A net gain of only 58 volumes for the year is a pretty small net gain. How long would you continue to patronize a grocery store where the vegetable selection was limited to three heads of lettuce and a bunch of limp carrots? There are enough educated people in El Dorado to expect double or even triple your last year's circulation. Children are more easily satisfied. The books they like are good year after year, but the grown-ups need constant new material.

Of course, if the library's budget were larger, more books would be bought, undoubtedly. So the base of the library's lack of use is lack of budget. The report of a per capita expenditure of 95¢ is pretty low. The trouble is that El Dorado has too small a population to provide sufficient money to do much better than you are doing now. Are you and the other trustees acquainted with the new public library standards published early last year by the American Library Association? "Public Library Service,"

Rolla Clymer correspondence

and the accompanying pamphlet "Cost of Public Library Service in 1956" give the best idea of what it takes to give adequate public library service of anything that has been written in the past several years. For one thing, ALA states that a population area of less than 50,000 persons can hardly afford a public library. The per capita cost would be at least three times what El Dorado pays at the present time.

Now, if you are intrigued with the ALA standard of 50,000 population, all of Butler County would not have enough people to support a really good library. So, the standards say that in that case, the thing to do is for two or more counties to get together, organize a regional library that will have a broad enough tax base. You can do it, too. Fortunately, the federal Library Services Act is intended to work for situations just like yours. It provides money, through the state library agencies, for the development of libraries in rural areas. Since a "rural area" is defined as an incorporated or unincorporated place of under 10,000 population, El Dorado wouldn't qualify by itself. But if a county library were organized, then if El Dorado were a part of it, you would benefit very definitely. Kansas is working hard on this very line at present. I understand that some new state legislation was necessary to make it possible to develop county and regional libraries. Zelia French (another El Doradoan) of the Kansas Traveling Libraries Commission in Topeka, can tell you much more about it than I can.

The library which I head at present was organized as a county library six and a half years ago. It was formed by combining 4 small village libraries that were starving to death, and expanded to include all of the county with the exception of the Chillicothe school district. Conditions are different here in that the county is partly industrialized, has a larger population than Butler (about twice), but is less than half the size--some 600 square miles to Butler's more than 1400. But the principle is the same. The former independent libraries that spent maybe \$200 a year for books are now branches of the county system. Our book budget for 1957 was over \$13,000, and there wasn't a library but received the equivalent of at least \$1000 worth of books during the year. Our per capita support is about \$1.30--and the ALA standards for communities of this size say it should be about \$3.50.

Mrs. Bradford's gift of \$200,000 for a new building is a wonderful thing, but I wonder if El Dorado can afford it? Suppose half the amount were used for enlarging and remodeling, and the remaining part invested as an endowment. The income could be added to the book fund. You can have the fanciest library building in the whole of creation, but if you don't have books in it, the people will still say away in large crowds.

I can illustrate that again from this library. Our central library is in Chillicothe, the county seat, and is not intended to be a circulating library. However, state law states that every library receiving tax support must give all residents of the county equal service, so in spite of the fact that the city of Chillicothe has a library of its own--a moribund affair--a great many Chillicotheans come here to borrow. In fact, last year we lent 14,004 adult volumes, and only 7248 children's books. It was done, furthermore, in a 3½ hour day, for the central library is open to circulation only from 1:00 to 4:30. We have only a trifle over 1400 registered readers at Central. The ~~chief~~ answer, it seems to me, is that we were able to provide new books in considerable numbers.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

This is a fine lot of gratuitous advice, and you can toss it in the waste basket if you wish. Still, I just couldn't help myself when I saw the library's report and your editorial. It all boils down to one thing--you'll get greater use of the library if you have enough books, with a good number being added each year (provided, of course, the librarian does a bit of publicizing), and the only way to get more new books is to increase the budget in some way.

So, with my apologies for being a butt-insky, and my regards and greetings to the several trustees who may still remember me,

Very sincerely yours,

Ray Embree
Librarian

P. S. Augusta's library in 1955 had an income of \$3856, spent \$658 for books, and had a circulation of 15,981 to a population of about 4500. Douglass library had an income in 1955 of \$12,816, spent \$1802 for books, and circulated 11,332 volumes. My statistics don't give population for Douglass, but it is surely smaller than Augusta. Where does Douglass get its money? It must have a lot higher per capita income than El Dorado for library purposes.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

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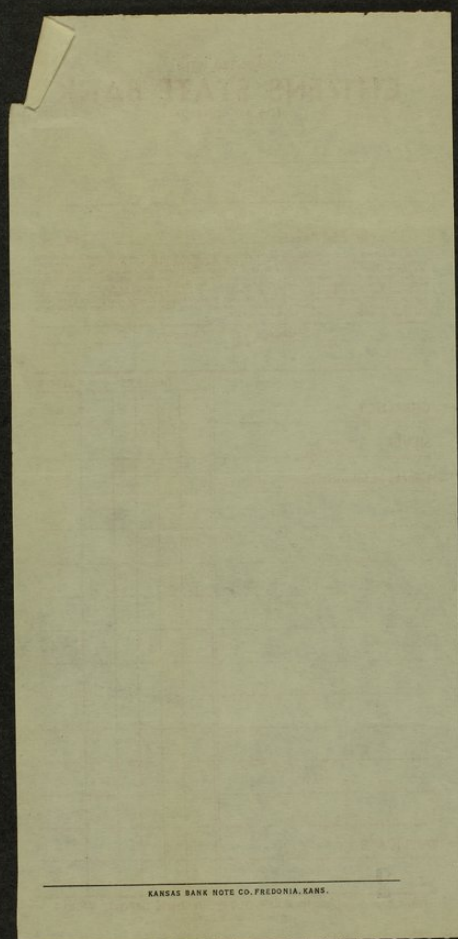
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THE PLYMOUTH PILOT-NEWS

THE PILOT COMPANY, Publisher
113 - 115 West Garro Street
PLYMOUTH, INDIANA

Las Cruces, N. M., February 9, 1958
1137 No. Alameda

Mr. R. A. Clymer
The El Dorado Kansas Times
El Dorado, Kansas
Dear Sir:

I was disappointed not to see you when we were in El Dorado Feb. 1. I had telephoned your residence ^{the night before,} but no answer. Wanted to tell you I was in town and maybe arrange a meeting in the morning. Your El Dorado Motel, where we stopped over night is a splendid place, one of the best we have been in. Had Mrs. Boys and I been alone, we would have stopped to call at your home, but with us were our daughter-in-law and her son, who was driving us to New Mexico, so we did not feel we could stop longer. The son, Mike Boys, our grandson, is on our advertising department and so wanted to get back soon as he could.

We shall return to Plymouth next April, but I doubt if we can get as far north as your town, for I want to stop at my old home town of Grenola, which is in the Flint Hills and where I grew up. Hope we may meet some time before long.

I appreciated getting your "Majesty of the Hills," and have it with me here for reference.

Fraternally yours,

Samuel E. Boys
Samuel E. Boys

Rolla Clymer correspondence

RICHARD ROBBINS

423 N. Main St. Phone Greenwood 2-3215
PRATT, KANSAS

February 10, 1958

Dear Rolla:

Thank you for your recent note. I can imagine your willingness to shuck off some of your "extracurricular" activities. I have the same problem with the Kansas Livestock Association et al.

I understand you wrote an editorial about Bill Smith some time ago. If you would send me a copy of it I would appreciate it.

Yours,

rick