

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Section 1228, Pages 36811 - 36840

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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Rolla Clymer correspondence

THE WALNUT VALLEY STATE BANK

CONFIDENTIAL TO MR. CLYMER

DATE Dec. 11, 1959

PAGE 3.

and 50% to the Butler County Historical Society. Mr. Moon said he felt the B.C.H.S. should accept 47.5%, and I told him I would report his sentiments to our group; I would not recommend less than 50%, but I was willing to be overruled.

Mr. Moon stated that he preferred a formula basis because he fully expects Augusta and area to overtake El Dorado and area, and thereby gain proportionately as time goes by.

As I said, I am supposed to receive a digest of the proceedings from Morris; so when I receive it we can get together and make sure we agree with the proposals.

Yours very truly,

Clifford W. Stone

x 8.50
x 2.25
x .00
x 1.912.50 T

New Budget
2.300.00
1.912.50 -
387.50 T
Shaw

Rolla Clymer correspondence

December 11, 1959

Dear Whitley:-

I held with you, namely that the image of Lincoln in the public mind dictated a beard for the phony Lincoln on tour. God knows, I didn't want the fuzzy critter tickling my ears--but I maintained that position.

As you now know, the powers decreed otherwise. So I went along breadless--and mostly witless, too, I imagine. At any rate, the biznal drew a far greater play than I had ever anticipated, from press, radio and TV generally, and some of it fairly well had me floored.

In a way, it was fun--but also required some digging. I gave three speeches on Saturday, all of them the exact language of Lincoln as I was able to unearth it from various sources to which Nyle Miller exposed me. Moreover, it was a hard day--and a cold one, but I do not regret the effort.

In your valiant crusade against football queens, I fear you are butting your hard head against an immovable wall. You might join me in my endeavor of several past years to purify the pastime--to such extent that governors and such who kiss the queens should not handle the gals as if they were horse pistols.

It will soon be time to select the recipient of the White award. Who will it be this time--Oscar or Jack?

Yours,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

December 11, 1959

Mr. H. T. Beckwith
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dear Mr. Beckwith:-

It was exceedingly kind of you to send me the copy of the Corpus Christi paper carrying my Lincoln picture, and I am deeply grateful to you for this courtesy. I was fairly amazed that the Kansas papers generally gave such a publicity play to the Lincoln tour, and am even more so that news of the event reached so far from home. I truly hope that some day I may have the privilege of making your acquaintance.

Sincerely,



KANSAS CENTENNIAL

1861-1961

December 11, 1959

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Mr. Rolla Clymer
El Dorado Times
El Dorado, Kansas

Dear Rolla:

Attached is a copy of my letter to Fred Brinkerhoff regarding my feelings on the reenactment of Lincoln's visit to Kansas.

I want to thank you very much for your efforts. All Kansas is proud of you; and I, of course, am very happy to have you as one of my co-workers in the celebration of the Kansas Centennial.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Maurice E. Fager
Chairman

ENC.
cc F. W. Brinkerhoff

Rolla Clymer correspondence

STAUFFER PUBLICATIONS, INC.

TOPEKA, KANSAS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 11, 1959

Mr. Rolla Clymer
El Dorado Times
El Dorado, Kansas

Dear Rolla:

To meet the higher educational needs of Kansas both now and in the immediate years ahead Kansas needs to plan wisely and well. What is done now in training Kansas youth may be said advisedly to be of first importance.

The University at Lawrence, the Kansas State University at Manhattan, and the State Colleges at Emporia, Hays and Pittsburg are at a critical juncture.

To discuss the future you and a score of others who are known to be conscious of the educational needs are being invited to come to Topeka on December 21 and meet at 12 noon at the Hotel Jayhawk and discuss this prospect. You are not going to be asked for money but only to help in trying to solve some of the critical needs of college education in Kansas.

You have been told of the burgeoning influx about to take over our colleges. What actually is needed? That's our true concern. We have been assured Chancellor Murphy of the University and President McCain of Kansas State University will respond to our call to outline the true needs and answer questions to the best of their ability.

The names of those below have been invited. Your advice will be wanted if and as it is necessary to take action and if additional names are to be added to the group. Also should a permanent committee be needed there will be elected a chairman other than the undersigned.

With a new year in the offing, time is of the essence. Won't you write us that you'll be present.

Evan Griffith
Evan Griffith

Cordially yours,

Oscar Stauffer
Oscar Stauffer

J. Hamilton Abrahams, Mrs. Verne W. Alden, Ross Beach, Huck Boyd, Maurice Breidenthal, W. D. P. Carey, Charles Chandler, Rolla Clymer, Clarence Coleman, Harry Colmery, Laird Dean, Jerry Driscoll, Bob Finney, Evan Griffith, Jack Harris, Cliff Hope, Sr., B. L. Humphreys, Henry Jameson, Robert Jennison, Lloyd Kerford, Dr. Charles M. Kimball, Alf M. Landon, Dale Maxwell, Les McCoy, Thomas McNally, Dr. Karl Menninger, Dr. Laurence S. Nelson, Henry D. Parkinson, Walter Pierce, Wayne Rogler, R. W. Samuelson, J. Earl Schaefer, Mrs. Roy Seaton, Charles Shaver, and Oscar Stauffer.



Rolla Clymer correspondence

December 11, 1959

Mrs. Pearl B. Harsh
El Dorado, Kansas

Dear Mrs. Harsh:-

I wish I could help you in your predicament but frankly I do not know what the answer is to the situation you so well describe. All of us, I am sure, have had and are having similar experiences. In our business, we have a few firms we think we can trust, so give them the calls when occasions arise. But there is no sure remedy of which I am aware to this condition.

I am always glad to hear from you and hope you will feel free to write me at any time. I have been out of town twice since receiving your letter which will explain my delay in answering it.

Very truly yours,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

December 11, 1959

Mr. Floyd C. Shoemaker, Secretary
The State Historical Society of Missouri
Columbia, Mo.

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:-

I am deeply grateful for your kind letter. It was a deep pleasure to all of us to have you with us during the Lincoln tour of last Saturday, as your presence is always stimulating.

The tour itself seemed to arouse a proper amount of interest, and I have been much surprised by the generous way in which it was supported by Kansas press, radio and TV. Perhaps there is more devotion to recalling past history instead of making current history, than many of us are prone to believe.

I, too, have imagined that our tour might have bogged down at the beginning if that St. Joe bridge had not stayed up another day.

Again I thank you for all courtesies.

Sincerely,



EDWARD H. REES
4TH DISTRICT, KANSAS

MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON
POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Emporia, Kansas
December 11, 1959

Dear Rolla:

You did splendidly in depicting Abraham
Lincoln in his trip over northeastern Kansas.

You are a real actor. Congratulations.

Sincerely,

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

Rolla Clymer correspondence

December 11, 1959

My Dear Nyle:-

Thanks for your good letter.

You say you are in a hurry for this stuff, so I am going to send it along to you as is. Maybe all of its needs to be recd'ped, and that is especially true of the Atchison piece. Al Bennett marked it up for ~~xxx~~ printers and it is a mess.

The way matters are lining up for me, I doubt if I could get to this job in a week. You have some stenographers; if these girls can manager to get thos copy in suitable form, it would be a great favor to me.

For delivery, I made numerous ~~xxxx~~ ~~xx~~ underlinings, as well as other marks. I suggest that these all be eliminated in the copies designed for publication. I did not follow the punctuation exactly as it was throughout, but I believe I would let the capitals stand as I have them.

I also suggest that the proof be read carefully both on the copying and the typesetting. If you would like to have me read the final proofs, I shall be glad to do so.

I am sending these speeches in the order in which they were presented--Troy, Atchison and Leavenworth. Personally, it is my belief that the Atchison speech is the best of the lot because of the content--delivered on the day John Brown was hanged.

I truly hope this is not an imposition on you. It may, in fact, speed up matters for you--as I am going to be covered up 80 fathoms all the rest of this month. I must start on my annual news review at once--and that will

Thanking you in advance, Sincerely,
mean night work again.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

The Salina Journal

WHITLEY AUSTIN
EDITOR

SALINA, KANSAS

TELEPHONE
TA 3-6363

December 12th

Dear Rolla,

Thank you for your extremely kind
letter.

I'm quite serious in wanting an autographed
picture of you and Brinkerhoff in your Lincoln regalia,
if you can persuade the news photogs to dig one up.

In the first place I love you both; in the second, I
think the Lincoln affair symbolic.

As for the White award, may I ~~suggest~~ ^{"on the QT"}
suggest Jack. His editorial writing and paragraphing
have never received quite the recognition they deserve.

Best,

Wht

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TOPEKA

December 12, 1959

Mr. Rolla Clymer, Editor
El Dorado Times
El Dorado, Kansas

Dear Rolla:

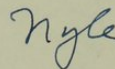
Many thanks for the copy. We can prepare it for the printer more easily than you, considering your back-breaking schedule. We'll read the galley proofs and send a set for your reading, too.

We don't have too much room in this issue, so it looks as if we'll have to hold the introductory matter to a minimum. However, with a little tying together, I think the talks will speak for themselves.

You'll get to see what we've done, and alterations can be made should you desire.

Meanwhile, old fellow, my heartiest best wishes for a happy Holiday season to the Clymers.

Cordially,



Secretary

NHM:mj



December 12, 1959

My Dear Ed Rees:-

Thanks for your kind letter
about "me und Abe."

Ypu say I am a "real actor." I have
heard it bruited about the village that I am a
"bad actor," but please don't let this get on
the outside.

Sincerely,

COPY



Rolla Clymer correspondence

The Pittsburg Headlight

EVENINGS
EXCEPT SUNDAY

Established 1887

THE PITTSBURG SUN

MORNINGS
EXCEPT MONDAY

Established 1915

THE PITTSBURG PUBLISHING COMPANY

F. W. BRINKERHOFF
EDITOR AND MANAGER

Pittsburg, Kansas
Dec. 14, 1959

Rolla A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

I have heard and seen nothing but the most favorable reports of Abe Lincoln and his visit to Kansas in 1959. I say again that it was a marvelous job that you did and the speeches you delivered made a splendid contribution to Kansas historical literature. I am hopeful that the success of this venture as shown by the publicity that was given to it will have an effect on our appropriation. It has opened the eyes of the legislators, I am sure, and the governor, too.

Thad Sandstrom was at the house last night and left twelve or fifteen minutes worth of TV tape, sound and all, which we are going to put on for Pearl tonight--August Simion and the girls at the house. I am going to keep the tape here but will have to return the machine to WIBW. Thad also brought me down a dozen still shots which are very fine. If he has not sent some to you, I will ask him to do so, or I will send these over to you for perusal.

Pearl got a tremendous kick out of them when she looked at them this morning. The one that gave her the biggest laugh was the shot of the three of us--you and Gardiner and myself--in the buggy.

Incidentally, she is gaining in speech nearly every day. Aside from this trouble she is in perfect health now.

Have you heard anything from old Nosey--the old hillbilly?

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls

PS The AP tells me that three pictures were serviced on the wire photo network, two of the pictures moved regionally in the southwest, one was sent nationwide. In addition pictures were moved into the state service and telemats were sent to papers in six states not on the network. Furthermore, the advance story was given wide play. FWB

Rolla Clymer correspondence

December 15, 1959

My Dear Oscar:-

I don't see how I can possibly attend that meeting called at Topeka for next Monday, December 21. We simply have too much hay down at this period for me to take a day out for this purpose. I'm sorry, but that's the way the matter stands.

Yours,

COPY

Rolla Clymer correspondence

December 15, 1959

My Dear Fred:-

I have read your letter and I think you are wondrous kind--but I utterly refuse to go along with your conclusions. I was a small toad in the Lincoln puddle. If my part had any merit, it lay in the Lincoln language I used. That put over the role.

I grant you that this tour was a success--but it was you who conceived it, you who hammered hard at indifference and reluctance to bring it to pass, you who engineered every detail--and whose masterly introductions at every point made the meaning of the whole effort crystal clear.

So we had a lot of publicity about the event (a tidal wave of it which vastly amazed me.) But who built it up in the first place, and kept it going with articles like that superb one in the Kansas City Star, and the one which the Associated Press carried on the wire?

If you don't have an idea who this bird was, I will enlighten you--Fred Waldo Brinkerhoff, of the Pittsburg Headlight and Sun, a Kansas editor who has long stood in a class by himself.

You may persuade others with your honeyed words, my besmish friend, but you can't fool me as to who deserves the lion's share of the glory--now that glory has come. So let's have no more of this kind of chatter.

I would dearly love to have a set of Thad Sandstrom's still shots and will be willing to pay for them, if you can head them out my way.

I have had two clippings of photos of me in the Lincoln pose from friends in Corpus Christi and El Paso. So the biznai moved around.

It is a deep delight to me to know that Pearl is doing so nicely--and I am sure you



KANSAS GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

WICHITA 1, KANSAS

G. W. EVANS
PRESIDENT

December 16, 1959

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

Dear Rolla:

I note with considerable pride, your editorial about the company in the El Dorado Times on December 14.

As always, we appreciate your comments. It is certainly nice to know our old friends are still behind us and wish us well.

With Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and the Coming Year,

Sincerely,

GWE/mb

cc - Mr. A. R. Loyd



Rolla Clymer correspondence

KANSAS STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
EMPORIA, KANSAS

December 17, 1959

Mr. Rolla Clymer, Editor
El Dorado Times
El Dorado, Kansas

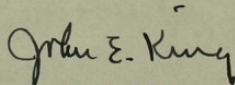
Dear Mr. Clymer:

President King and I want you to know how much we appreciate your time and trouble in coming to Emporia last week to draw up the Articles of Incorporation of the Friends of the Library in Kansas. More than that, your devotion to reading, your vigorous support of education for all Kansas citizens, and your realization of the fundamental values for today's informed American electorate, all show your continuing concern for the future of the book in our society.

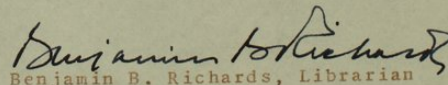
One thing we know is that if books are made freely available, people will read them eagerly. Every new library opening or new rural book service brings in whole new sets of readers. The most effective thing we can all do together is to go out in our communities all over the state to work for better and better school and public library service.

The establishment of a strong and influential Friends of Kansas Libraries is a landmark in our state. We wish you the best of luck on your adventure and pledge to you the dedicated support of the Kansas State Teachers College, the William Allen White Library, and the Library School at Emporia.

Sincerely yours,



John E. King, President



Benjamin B. Richards, Librarian

Rolla Clymer correspondence

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Rolla Clymer correspondence

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THAD M. SANDSTROM
General Manager

December 18, 1959

Mr. Rolla Clymer
ElDorado Times
ElDorado, Kansas

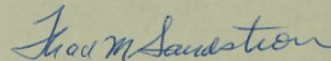
Dear Mr. Clymer

I have sent the negatives of the pictures which we took at Troy, Atchison, and Leavenworth to Nyle Miller at the Historical Society and he is going to make a full set of prints for you. You should be receiving them within the next few days.

We are saving the film which we made which was shown on WIBW-TV on Saturday night, December 5, and plan to show it at the next meeting of the Centennial Commission. I hope that you will have an opportunity to see it because I am sure you will enjoy it.

Best wishes for the holidays.

Cordially yours



Thad M. Sandstrom
General Manager

TMS:ap

cc Nyle Miller



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Rolla Clymer correspondence

The Pittsburg Headlight

EVENINGS
EXCEPT SUNDAY

Established 1887

THE PITTSBURG SUN

MORNINGS
EXCEPT MONDAY

Established 1915

THE PITTSBURG PUBLISHING COMPANY

F. W. BRINKERHOFF
EDITOR AND MANAGER

Pittsburg, Kansas
Dec. 19, 1959

Rolla A. Clymer
The Times
El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

Your letter overwhelms me--and your card the same. Let us drop the discussion here as to who did what in northeastern Kansas. The celebration was a success and I am sure it gave our state celebration plans a very helpful shove.

You say you hope I am busy, too. Never have been more so. Business was not good in November and we have nothing to brag about for December. But we never worked any harder. In addition to various other responsibilities I got out Christmas cards to the number of 461 to date and I addressed every envelope myself. I was determined that everybody who has sent a letter or card to Pearl would have a card from her. About 300 individuals have sent her 625 cards since she first went to the hospital. Then there were innumerable letters and our niece, Betty Gibson, wrote 136 letters of acknowledgment of gifts and flowers and other things. I knew you would be interested.

So here we are with jingle bells sounding again. I say to you as I have said before, nothing is so precious at any time, not only at Christmas time, as the appreciation of real friendship. And I want you to know that I appreciate your friendship more than I can ever express. I appreciate its sincerity, its unselfishness and its frankness.

With every good wish for you and yours from now on indefinitely and speaking for Pearl who feels as I do and long has shared my interest in Clymer,

Sincerely,

F. W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:ls



O. S. STAUFFER, PUBLISHER

ESTABLISHED 1870

The Arkansas City Daily Traveler

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS
AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

ARKANSAS CITY, KANSAS

Dec. 20, 1959

REX WOODS
EDITOR AND MANAGER

Dear Old One:

Congratulations. You and Dave did a fine job.

I wish I could be 40 again and have all that damned
advertising.

Cordially, Merry Christmas

KANSAS GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

WICHITA 1, KANSAS

December 21, 1959

G. W. EVANS
PRESIDENT

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

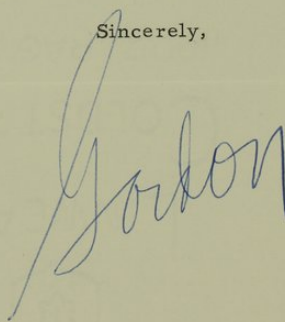
Dear Rolla:

Congratulations upon the 40th Anniversary of The El Dorado Times. You and your paper have been a dominant influence for progress in El Dorado and Butler County. Also you have been on the side of every worthwhile project for this area and for the State of Kansas.

I hope that you personally have many more years of active service for your paper and community and that The El Dorado Times continues to be a leader in the future as it has been in the past. I know that you can take justifiable pride in this accomplishment during the last 40 years.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,



GWE:bb





December 21, 1959

Dear Rolla:

It was so thoughtful
of you and the other members
of the library board to give
the book, "Hawaii" to the

Rolla Clymer correspondence

library in memory of
Eaton. I know that she
would be touched -- we
certainly are.

Eaton was tremendously
interested in the new building
and I am so grateful that
she lived long enough to see
it completed and to go through
it.

She was also interested
in our newest state, as it
seems to me that the
selection was was a
particularly happy one.

Sincerely,
Bob Taliaferro

Rolla Clymer correspondence

December 21, 1959

Mr. Thad M. Sandstrom, General Manager
WIBW * WIBW-TV
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Mr. Sandstrom:-

You and your stations have been extremely kind to us Lincoln boys all the way, and I want you to know that I am grateful. Your latest generosity in the matter of the still pictures is the acme of courtesy--and I am grateful all over again. I shall be happy to see the film, as I understand it really covered the water front.

Thanking you again and with constant best wishes,

Sincerely,

COPIES

Rolla Clymer correspondence

December 22, 1959

Dear Frank Adams:-

With the idea in mind that you may be in El Dorado next Saturday, December 26, I am wondering if you and Dave and I could not have a little discussion in my office during the afternoon. We could talk over the business and, in effect, hold a sort of company meeting which would be valuable.

If you can drop me a note, telling whether you can be here or not, I shall appreciate your kindness.

Yours,

COPY



The SOUTH CENTRAL KANSAS Economic Development Council

300 MILLER BUILDING
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PHONE FOREST 3-1247
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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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December 22, 1959

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

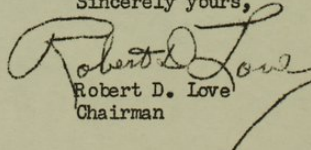
It is with anticipation of service to the South Central Kansas area that I have accepted the honor you have extended to me as Chairman of the South Central Kansas Economic Development Council. I know that with your help we will be able to advance the interests of our entire area, and of the communities located in the region.

In order that we may proceed with the development of our plans, and the continued implementation of the program which has been so ably carried out under the direction of Mr. Donald Hickman, the immediate past chairman, I am suggesting that you mark your calendar for January 13th as the date of a meeting to be held in Wichita, at 4:00 p.m., to provide an opportunity for further discussion.

You will receive a notice containing further details prior to the meeting.

I want to express my personal appreciation to you for your support, and extend My Best Wishes for the Holiday Season.

Sincerely yours,


Robert D. Love
Chairman

RDL:es

BUTLER COWLEY HARPER HARVEY KINGMAN MARION MCIPHERSON RENO SEDGWICK SUMNER

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Route Two
El Dorado, Kansas
December 23, 1959

Dear Mr. Clymer:

What a splendid forty years for the Times — and some months more for El Dorado, as I recall! And what an issue to observe the event! I've been slow in expressing our thanks, but the Saturday issue caught us scraping the bottom of the stamp box and equally low on time. It would be most misleading to cite any one thing in the paper as being most outstanding, it was so well-rounded and well done, but at the moment I can't fail to mention the listing of those whose lives made the warp and woof of the El Dorado pattern. Recognition does honor to the one who offers it — paper or whatever.

Always best wishes,

Myra Brown