

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Section 320, Pages 9571 - 9600

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

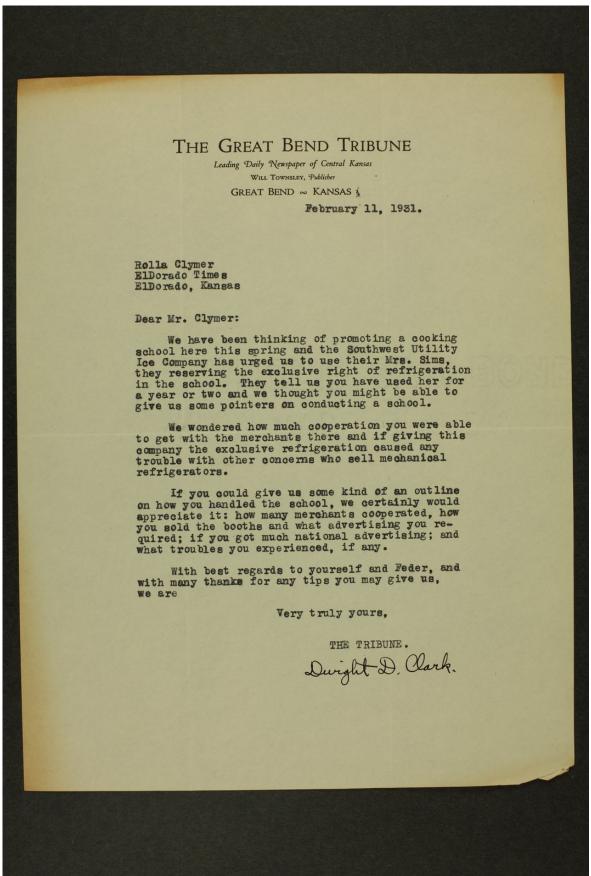
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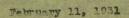
HISTORICAL SOCIETY







Rolla Clymer correspondence



Mr. James B. Austin, Wellington, Kansas

My Dear Austin:

I am glad you are "going to" it at Wellington. From what I hear of the situation there and of the remarkable support accorded you, I believe you can win. I certainly hope so, and trust that you will get started and keep g ing, despite any temporary setbacks that may occur. The other fellow doubtless has brought this on himself, and you are in the position to reap the benefits of his mis-

As to Russell H. Fisher. He is a man of wide newspaper experience in many parts of the country. He is an excellent writer, is of friendly disposition and is at his best when writing articles of a friendly nature. He did work for us at one time for a short interval, and I was impressed with the optimism of his stuff and of his ability to get and write a great deal of local news matter. His friends here tell me that he is a most loyal man to any enterprise to which he is attached. He has been out of actual newspaper work for a few months, having been engaged in writing and publishing books of biographical sketches. Present conditions have worked against success along that line at this time, and he would be available for you. I believe he would stick. At any rate, I feel he is well adapted to your primary needs in getting your new paper under way. He has had experience in every part of the news end of a daily paper, and I think this training and his counsel would stand you in good stead.

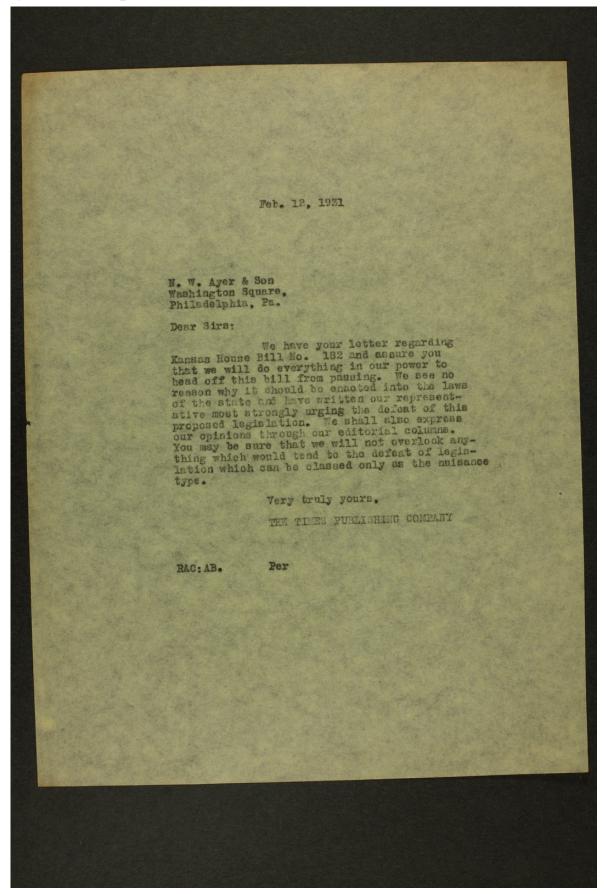
However, I want you to size him up and judge him for yourself. I am going to suggest that he go to Wellington one day this week and have a talk with you. I hope this will be satisfactory with you.

I thank you for what you have said about our paper and will have one of the girls send you several copies of The Times in order to give you an idea of how we develop our home news. If I were starting a daily in Wellington, I would certainly give the home news the right of way.

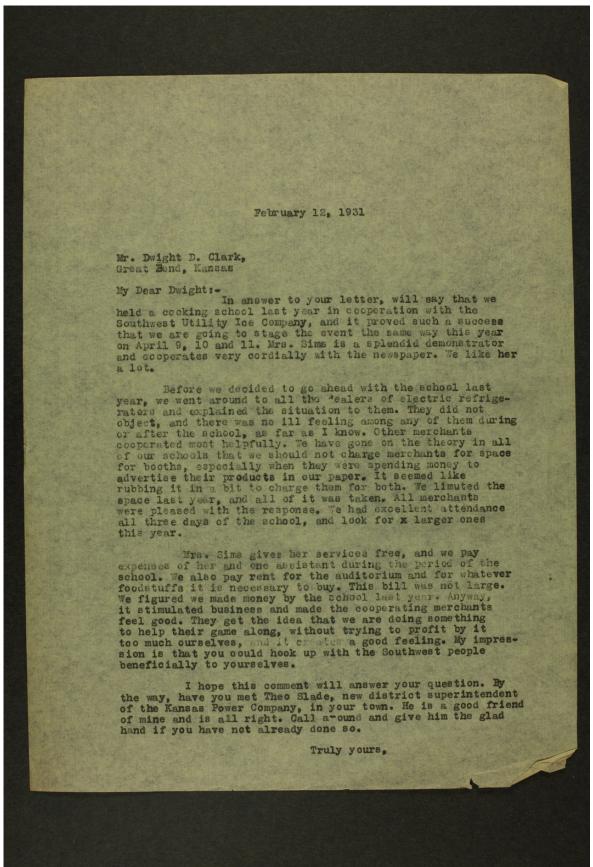
With best wishes for your success, I remain

Very truly yours,











Rolla Clymer correspondence

Feb. 12, 1931.

Mr. F. H. Cron, State House, Topeka, Kansas

Dear Mr. Cron:

I want to thank you for your letter of February 11 regarding Mouse Bill No. 182. It would be a great favor to us and to all Kansas newspapers if this bill were defeated. I am grateful to you for sending me a copy of the bill and want to point out what I consider its most objectionable feature. This occurs in lines 10, 11 and 12 which read: "The net weight shall be in type of equal size to the largest type used for either the contents or the advertised price thereof."

All of the leading firms doing business in Kansas through the sale of nationally advertised products strenuously protest against this provision which, if this bill becomes a law, would mean that all packages carrying products that came under the provision of this bill would have to be prepared for sale in this state, thus necessitating a great deal of additional expense. Personally I can see no virtue in a provision of this kind.

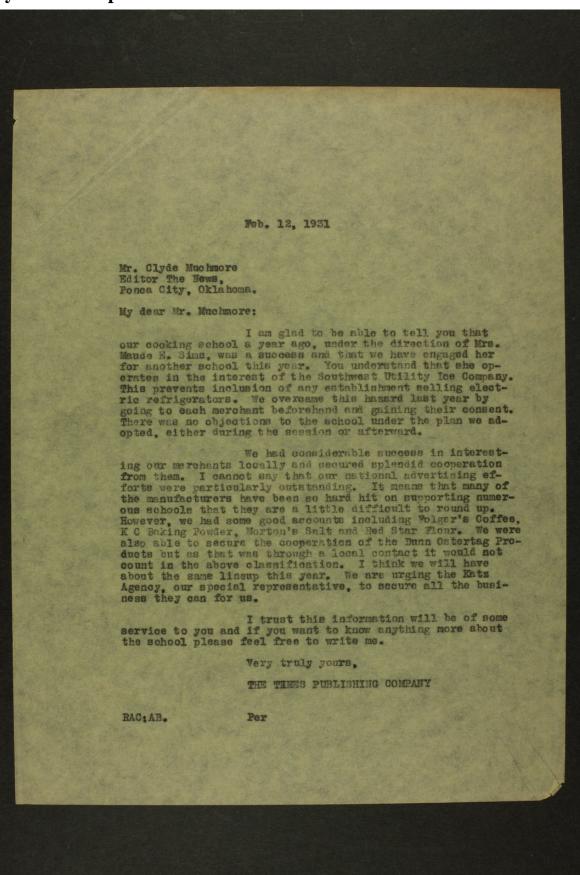
We had a letter today from N. W. Ayer & Son, one of the leading advertising agencies of the country. They give us their opinion that the present national regulation requirements on weight and contents appearing on labels of packages are sufficient and this seems to me to be a reasonable view of the subject. It would give me a lot of satisfaction if you would devote your efforts to a prompt killing of this bill.

I understand that about a half dezen bills have been introduced into the legislature during the past few days regarding oil proration within the state. My information is that these bills were drawn up by attorneys for some of the larger oil companies. I am not sure about this phase of it but at any rate I feel that these bills should be given a great deal of study before they are passed. My information is that House Bills Nos. 336 and 387 by Carpenter and No. 208 by Baird refer to this subject. There are also one or two others the numbers of which I do not know. Would it be putting you to much trouble to secure copies of these bills and send them to me? I shall greatly appreciate this favor. With kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

RAC: AB.







Rolla Clymer correspondence

February 12, 1931

My Dear Bill:

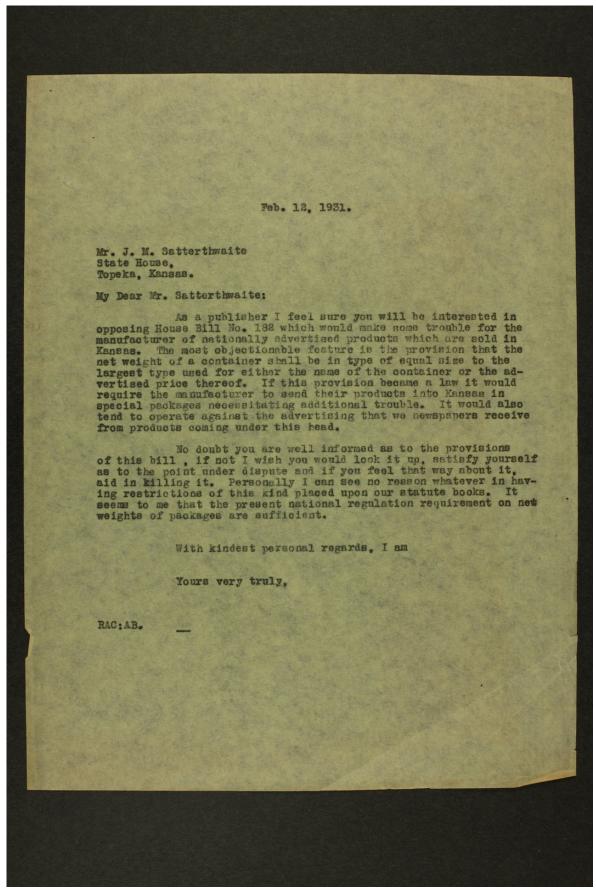
Your dinner last year was one of that year's
high spots for me. I enjoyed myself immensely and am flattered
to think you have invited me egain. It looks now as if I would
be unable to come. I am a member of the library board here
and that body has planned a dinner for its annual meeting
on the same evening--Tuesday, February 17. As I am in charge
of the budget, it seems necessary that I be here. I am mighty
sorry because of the conflict in dates, which will keep me
from having a good time with you, your family and your
friends. I hope you will not be offended because of my
dereliction this time, and will invite me again. Your dinner
party is a prized event in my estimation, and I should like
to be included in your guest list.

Betty and I are still talking about the trip to your home some Sunday, and will tender proposals to suit your convenience as soon as some of the activity here simmers down a bit.

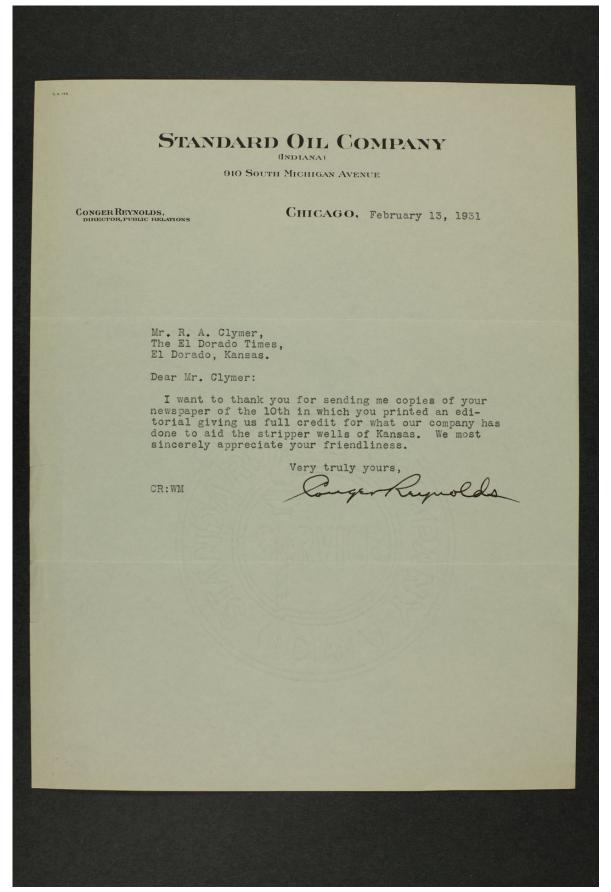
In the meantime, my best to you and yours and warm wishes for a happy birthdayx for you--and many more to come.

Regretfully, your friend,

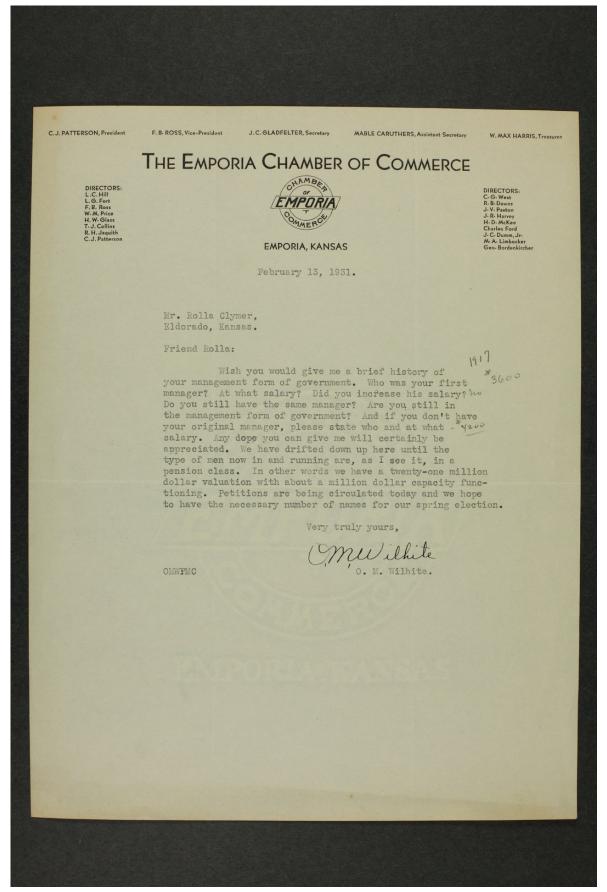




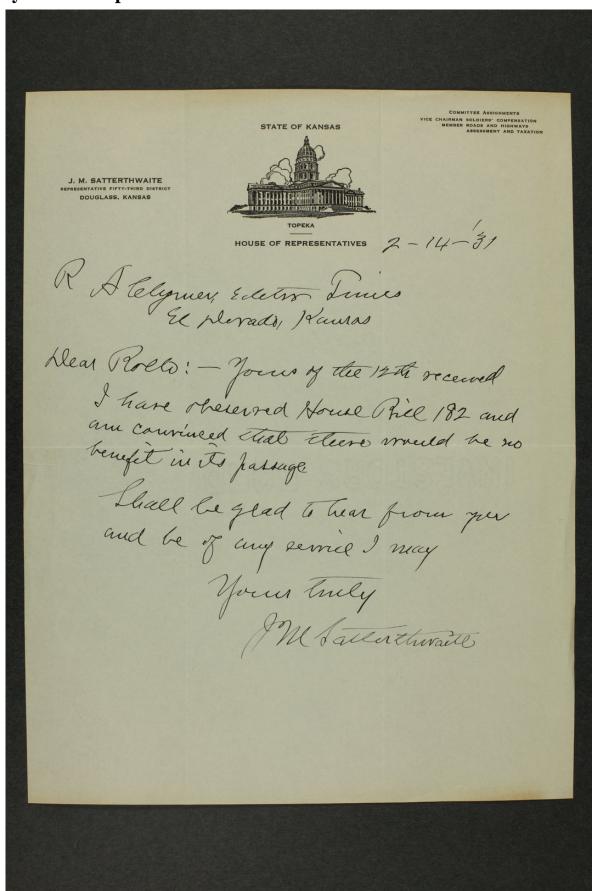












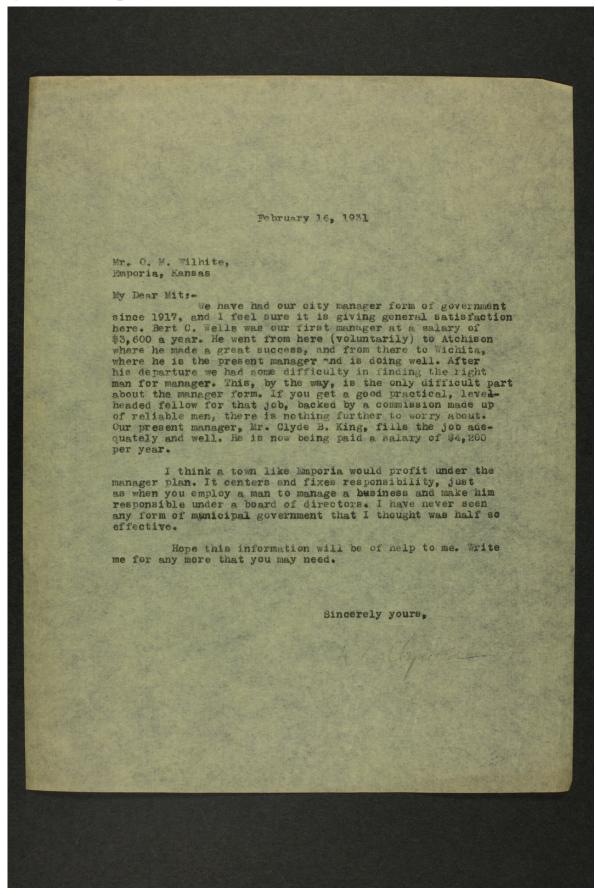


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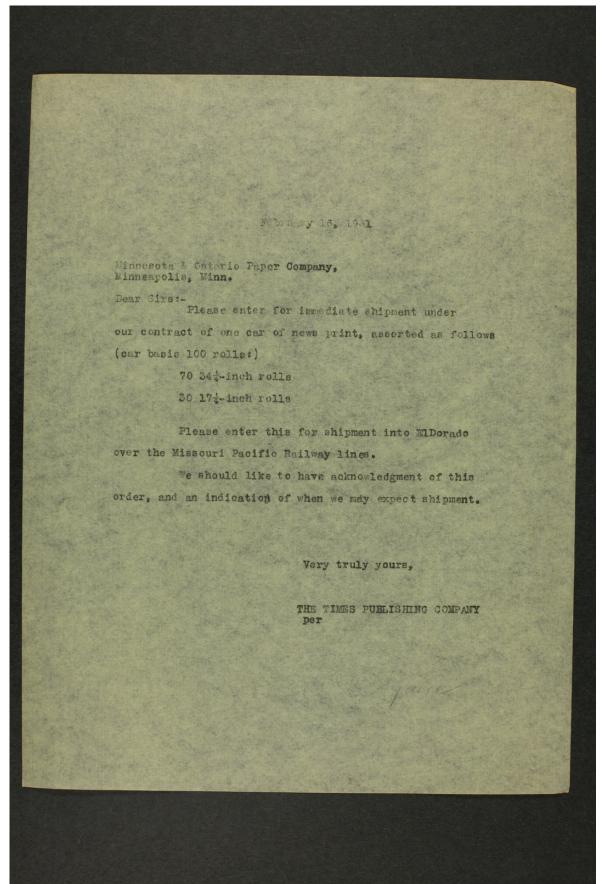


Couldruse more paper but night wit.
Regards to your elf and the Edymer. Pace you quoted quit aften in 7.6. Has land enjoy the shoff.
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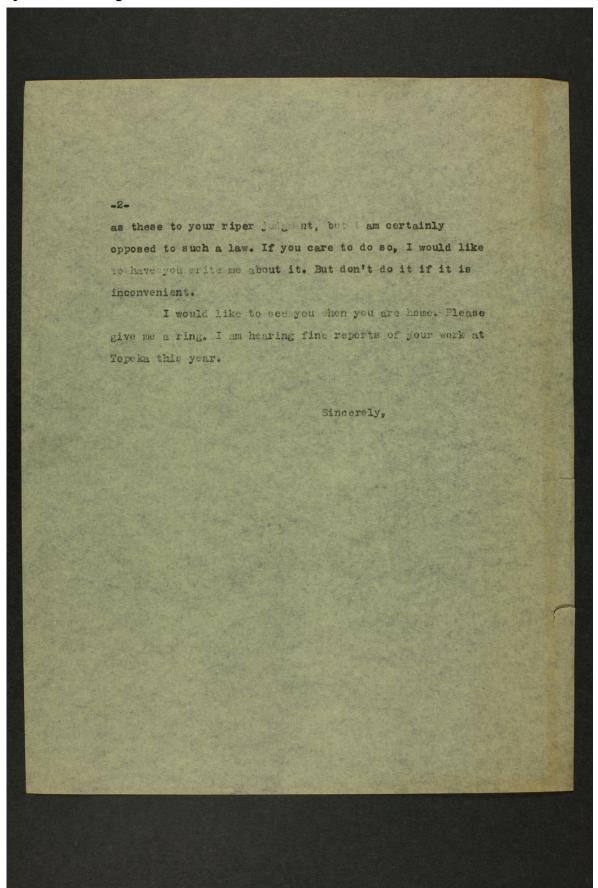
Rolla Clymer correspondence

February 16, 1931

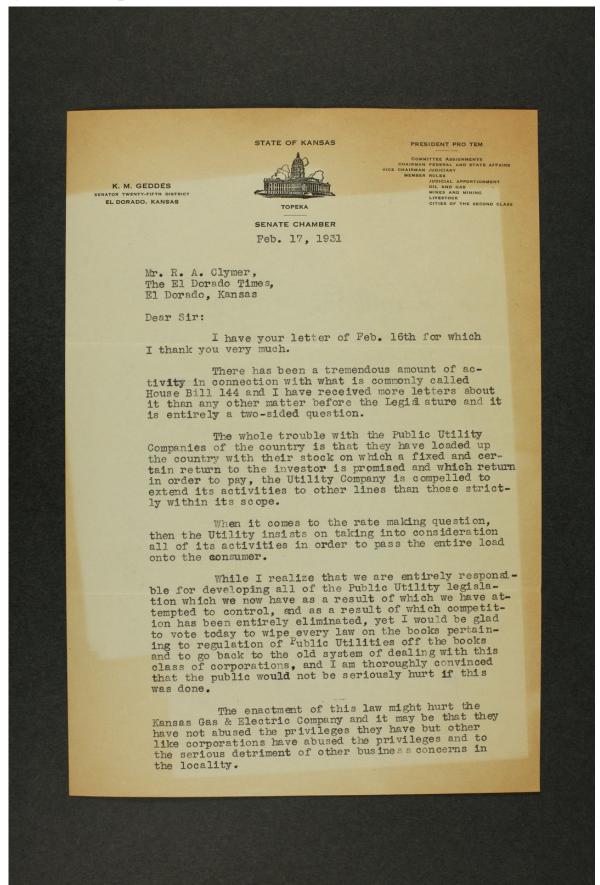
Senator K. M. Geddes, Topeka, Kansas

My Dear Karl:- I haven't bothered you much with suggestions at this session. I don't intend to do so, for I think you do a uniformly excellent job in the legislature and I find myself in agreement with you in a great majority of cases. I have been wondering lately about this proposal to prevent utilities from selling merchandise. I understand there is considerable sentiment in favor of it in the house. Publicly one doesn't hear much about it. Of course, I understand the gas companies have been the chief offenders which prompted this sort of action. It seems harsh that other companies, like the Kansas Gas & Electric Company, concerning which no complaint has been made that has come to my attention, should be penalized also. I believe the last-named concern has been able to keep light and power rates down by reason of their extensive merchandising sales and the cosequent use of more current. I would feel that passage of this bill would work a real hardship on every community. It would reduce the Kansas Gas & Electric Company payroll \$40,000 annually in ElDorado if such legislation were enacted. Really I cannot feel that the situation is important enough to call for such action. As I say, I am always willing to leave such matters

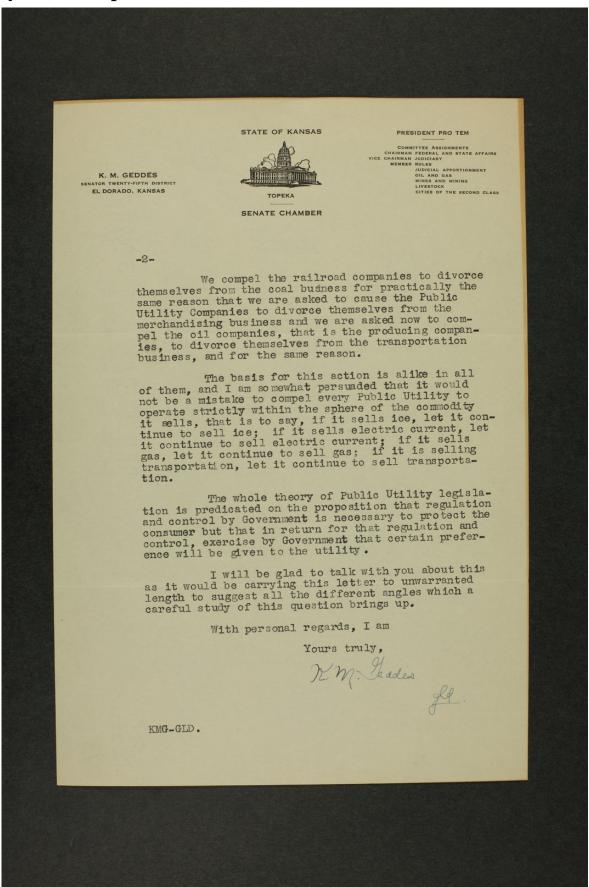




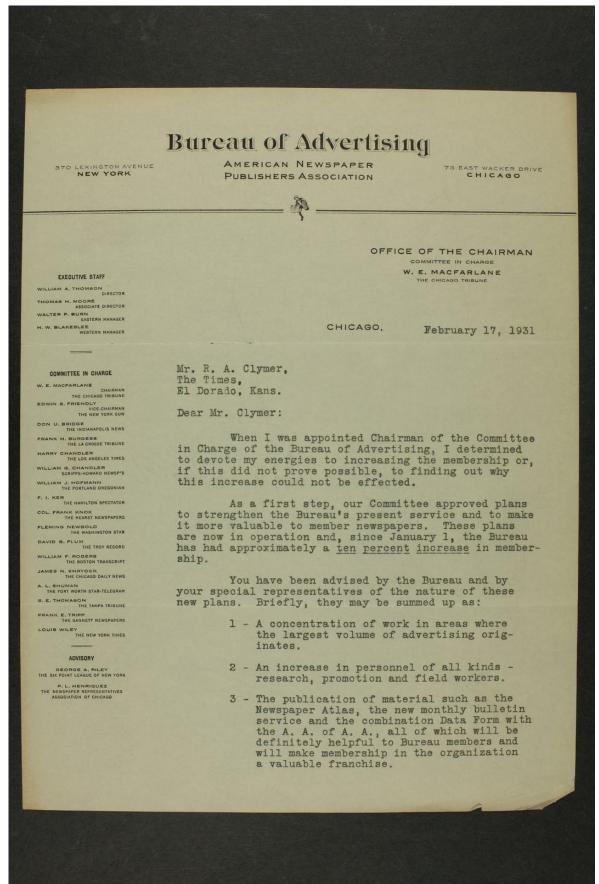














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Rolla Clymer correspondence

- 2 -

Having carried out this part of our program, I am now asking you for some help to enable us to take the second step intelligently.

The Committee believes the work of the Bureau of Advertising is more needed now than ever. We feel this way because we know the newspaper industry is not adequately organized to meet competition for national advertising and because the Bureau is the only organization in the field that is trying to meet this competition IN BEHALF OF ALL NEWSPAPERS. We believe furthermore that the Bureau should be universally supported.

This brings me around to some frank questions which I want to ask you and, if you will be equally frank in your answers, I will appreciate your cooperation. We make so many surveys on so many different questions, it occurs to me a survey of the reasons that govern many newspapers in their attitude toward the Bureau will be both timely and helpful.

Therefore, may I ask:

a. Do you believe in the basic principle behind the Bureau of Advertising, that is, organized effort by newspapers to develop and conserve national advertising?

b. Do you believe the Bureau of Advertising is operating on sound lines?

c. What suggestions can you offer as to how the Bureau's work and program may be improved?

d. Will you state your reasons for not becoming a member of the Bureau?

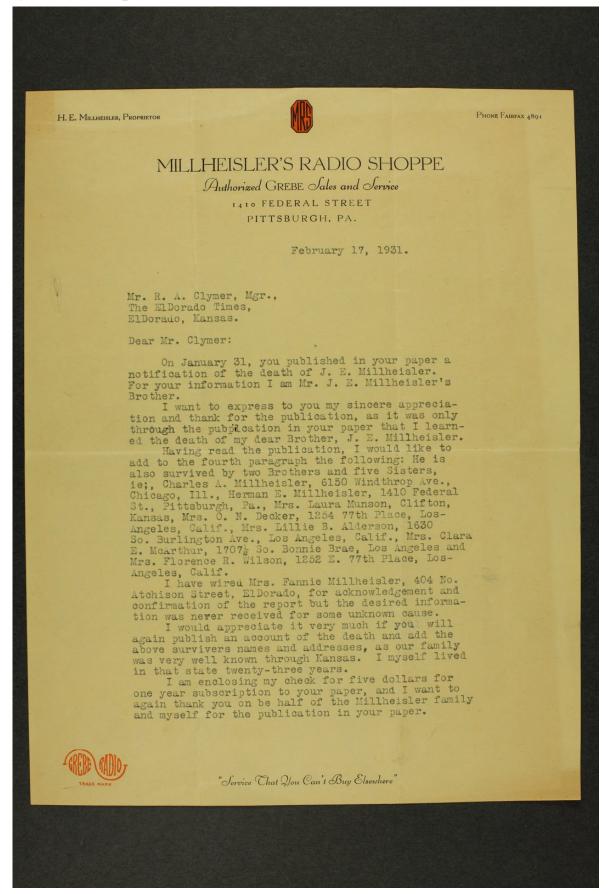
e. What can the Bureau do by way of changing, improving or enlarging its work to obtain your support as a member?

Our Committee considers the problem which I have laid before you, one of the most important now faced by newspapers. We believe in the Bureau's work. We see the effectiveness of it with its present limited force and we see the need for equipping it to do a bigger job. What we now want - and what we now hope to get with your help - is a frank expression of opinion, so that we may be guided better in our future responsibility. For that reason, I will appreciate an unreserved reply at your earliest convenience.

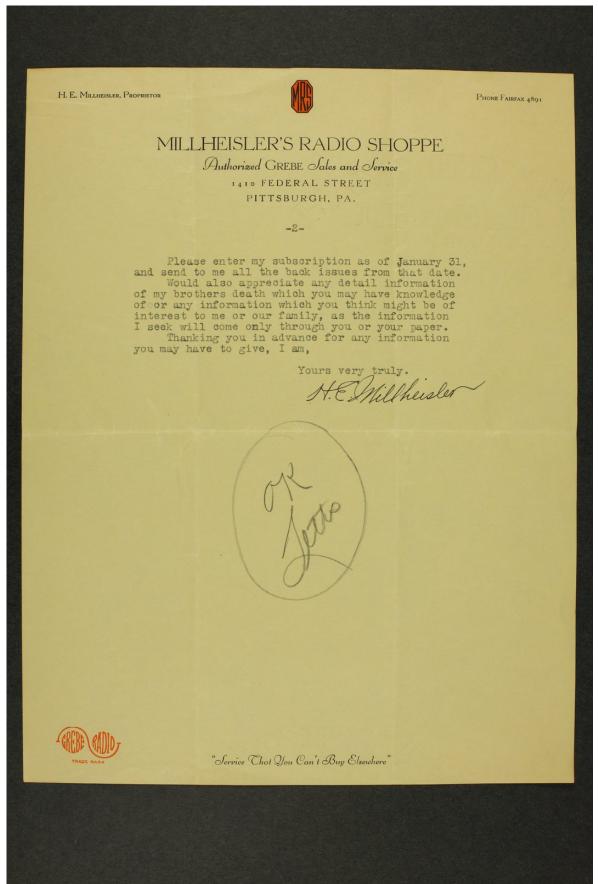
Sincerely yours,

CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE IN CHARGE BUREAU OF ADVERTISING











Rolla Clymer correspondence

February 18, 1931

Mr. E. W. Miller, Olathe, Kansas

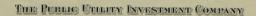
I was delighted to hear from you after all these years. I always had a weakness for you and never expect to get over it. I want to come to Clathe as soon as I can, and spend a day or two chinning with you about all the stirring things that have happened in the dozen years since we parted.

I enjoyed your verse very much and think you have a decided talent for that sort of thing. However, a market for it is entirely another matter. The newspaper market is entirely swamped with that sort of thing. Our little paper here gets a dozen letters a week, I should say, offering to sell us editorials, columns, verse and comment—all of it clever and to a certain extent desirable—at ridiculously low prices. But most papers like ours are entirely surfeited with that sort of thing in the feature services provided through the Associated Press, the N. E. A. and other houses. I regret to tell you that I think selling it would be difficult.

The thing to do is to go along developing your talent--and some day a field may open for it. I am keeping the verse as you did not ask to have it returned. If you want it, let me know. With kindest regards, yours,



Rolla Clymer correspondence



SALINA, KANSAS

February 18, 1931

SALINA, KANSAS TOPEKA, KANSAS WICHITA, KANSAS HUTCHINSON, KANSAS KANSAS CITY, MISSOUP ENID, OKLAHOMA EUREKA, KANSAS

Mr. R. A. Clymer, The ElDorado Times, ElDorado, Kansas.

Dear Rolla:

Your letter of the 17th at hand, and I wish to say that all newspapers that have charged us the national rate, of which there are only five in the thirty-seven, have allowed us the regular agency commission of 15 and 2%. I feel that we are entitled to this discount on the time series.

I wish you would grant it if it is in line with your policy. I am not asking for anything except what has been given by all the other newspapers. Knowing the value of your publication, I want to continue giving you all the space I can throughout 1931, and there will be several of these series. Normally, we are quoted the local rate on all of our copy due to the fact that we do not have any agency affiliation. If we placed this through the agency, you would have to allow the 15 and 2% against national rate and I think you should grant it to us.

I trust business is good with you and that you are in fine health. Let me hear from you.

Sincerely your friend, THE PUBLIC UTILITY INVESTMENT CO.

RKEvans-GJ

Director of Publicity -- Advertising Mgr.

man



