

#### **Rolla Clymer correspondence**

Section 463, Pages 13861 - 13890

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

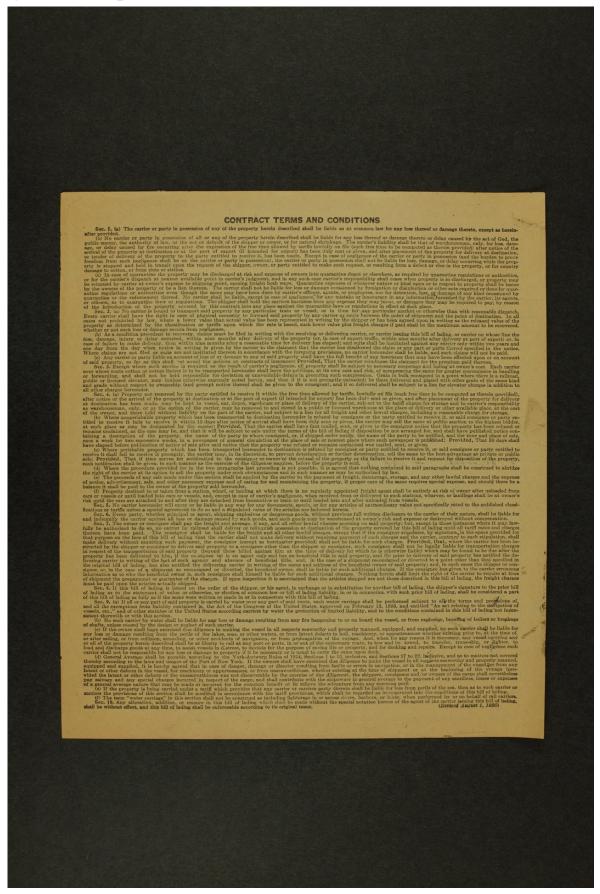
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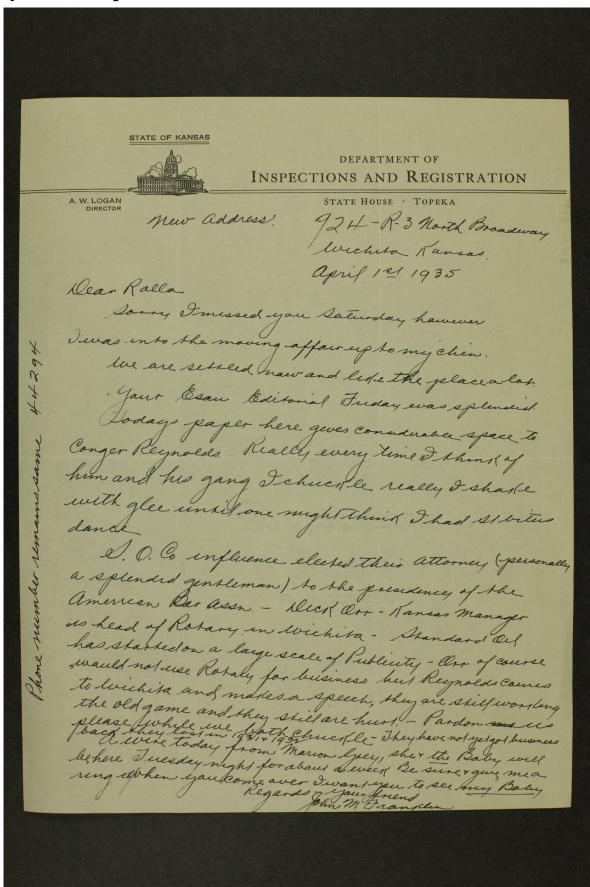
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# HISTORICAL SOCIETY











#### Rolla Clymer correspondence



April 1, 1935

COMMITTEE GEO. H. ADAMS

Daily Graphic

Pine Bluff, Ark.

STANLEY R. BANYON

News-Palladium

Benton Harbor, Mich. STANLEY T. BLACK

Pawtucket, R. I. J. A. CALLAHAN
Free Press
Mankato, Minn.

R. B. CHANDLER
Register
Mobile, Ala. A. M. CLAPP Herald Clinton, Ia.

H. A. DENNIS

Dispatch

Henderson, N. C. R. J. EDWARDS

Record and Chronicle

Denton, Texas

JOHN D. EWING Times Shreveport, La.

ROBERT H. GORE

Daily News

Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

JAMES HAMMOND

Commercial Appeal

Memphis, Tenn. ALFRED HARRELL Californian Bakersfield, Calif.

BEN S. HUDSON

Herald

Fredonia, Kan.

J. A. KEEFE

Herald

Anderson, Ind.

ROBERT R. O'BRIEN

Nonpareil
Council Bluffs, Ia.

S. A. PERKINS

Daily Olympian

Olympia, Wash.

W. V. RICHARDSON

Advocate

Danville, Ky.

ERNEST G. SMITH

Times-Leader
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

J. DAVID STERN
New York Post and
Philadelphia Record
New York and Philadelphia

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

Dear Mr. Clymer:

May we have your reply to the letter of the Membership Proxy Committee of Twenty-Five? A proxy form, with return envelope is enclosed.

Mr. Noyes has seen fit to inject the personal into a question of Association policy in his recent communications This is no new activity for Mr. Noyes. to the membership.

Colorado Springs, Colo. designed to mutualize the Associated Press in fact. In 1927, he sought to prevent the adoption of reforms

In spite of his opposition, the voting and protest rights of all members were substantially equalized.

Unable to object to the program our Committee proposes on the merits, Mr. Noyes raises the threadbare cry of Hearst.

Interior, N. J.

JOHN FRANCIS KEYLAN

TOOL no one; certainly not the membership of The AP.

REFERENCE CALLE.

ROBERT & R This disingenuous side-stepping of the issue will

Eighty per cent. of the membership and more now hold rights, which they did not hold before 1927. Thanks for these rights are due Mr. Hearst. Mr. Noyes, in his long stewardship, H. C. OCDEN rights are due Mr. Hearst. Mr. Noyes, III in the land with the line with the line with the land of the sought to block giving them to you.

MMS. MABEL S. SHAW Zedgraph Blook, III. Standard of efficiency. Thus according to the photo restriction number four proposes that the photo restriction number for the photo r Resolution number four proposes that the photo mat standard of efficiency. Thus, accepting Mr. Noyes' charge as true, the result is that "the sole sponsor of the program" is insisting on the continued efficiency of a direct competitor of his own news photo service.

> The success of our program will moor the Corporation again to the mutual concepts underlying its foundation, in the strict adherence to which it grew great.



#### Rolla Clymer correspondence

The establishment of a class within a class, founded solely on financial considerations, will surely and inevitably destroy The Associated Press.

Let every member reject as false the fictitious issue raised by Mr. Noyes. Let him consider the financial effect of wirephoto on his property, as against the advantages to be gained, if any.

Limited only by hours of publication and the differential in time as between New York and California, the AP news report is delivered contemporaneously to the New York Times and the Grass Valley, Calif. Union, a community of less than 4,000 population.

The weekly assessment for the news report is based, not on a deferred delivery as between the metropolitan paper and the small member, because there is no deferment, but upon an actuarial analysis of the decennial population census. This is not the case with wirephoto, which cannot possibly be made mutually available to all members.

Hence, the policy of the Board creates a preferred class of thirty-nine in this <u>mutual</u>, <u>cooperative association</u>, to your detriment, and to the <u>detriment of every non-subscriber</u> to wirephoto.

The creation of this caste threatens the Corporation's welfare, not the effort of Mr. Hearst and the Membership Proxy Committee of Twenty-Five to prevent its establishment.

Resolution number one does <u>not</u> mean administration of The Associated Press by plebiscite. Its very language limits its applicability to the inauguration of any activity, not available to <u>all</u> of the membership on an equal basis, where underwriting is involved or where the Corporation's credit, which is your credit, is pledged on behalf of a preferred group of members, as in the instance of wirephoto.

In a recent telegraphic exchange with Mr. Noyes, I suggested that he prepare the resolution to limit it to the taking of a plebiscite on fundamental changes, such as wirephoto, and not as to whether a new wire circuit, for instance, will or will not be put in operation, and submit it to me.

I have not, as yet, received a reply.

As to wirephoto, the question is whether the proposal has merit; and beyond that, how wirephoto will affect



#### Rolla Clymer correspondence

you in relation to your metropolitan competitor. Insofar as it increases the lag in time which heretofore existed, to that extent will you be adversely affected.

No one interested in the Corporation's welfare can honestly resist our Committee's effort to insure a twenty per cent. representation on the Board of Directors in behalf of eighty per cent. of the membership. In thirty-five years, only five members representing cities of less than 75,000 population have sat on the Board.

If, acting under a misconception of the issues involved, you have issued a proxy to the Pape Committee, so-called, or to any one else pledged to oppose these necessary and reasonable reforms, you can legally execute a proxy to our Committee. The proxy bearing the latest date prevails.

Our Committee urges you to approach a consideration of the issues dispassionately. We urge you to reject as stupid and unfair the inflammatory statements of Mr. Noyes, and to execute your proxy in behalf of the Membership Proxy Committee of Twenty-Five, pledged to equalize the rights of large and small members in this mutual association of ours.

Sincerely yours,

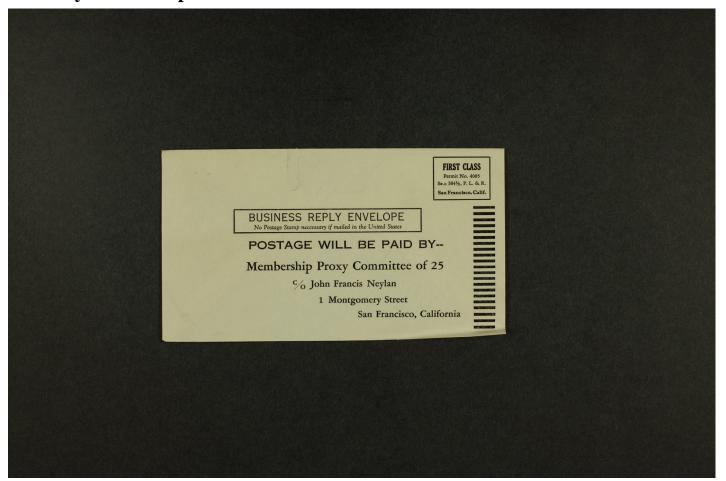
MEMBERSHIP PROXY COMMITTEE OF TWENTY-FIVE

Ву

JOHN FRANCIS NEYLAN.

P.S. Contrary to propaganda being circulated, the Membership Proxy Committee of Twenty-Five is exercising no interest in behalf of any candidate or candidates for Director. The Committee's activity will be limited to the four resolutions, the substance of which is set forth in its letter of March second, all statements to the contrary notwithstanding.

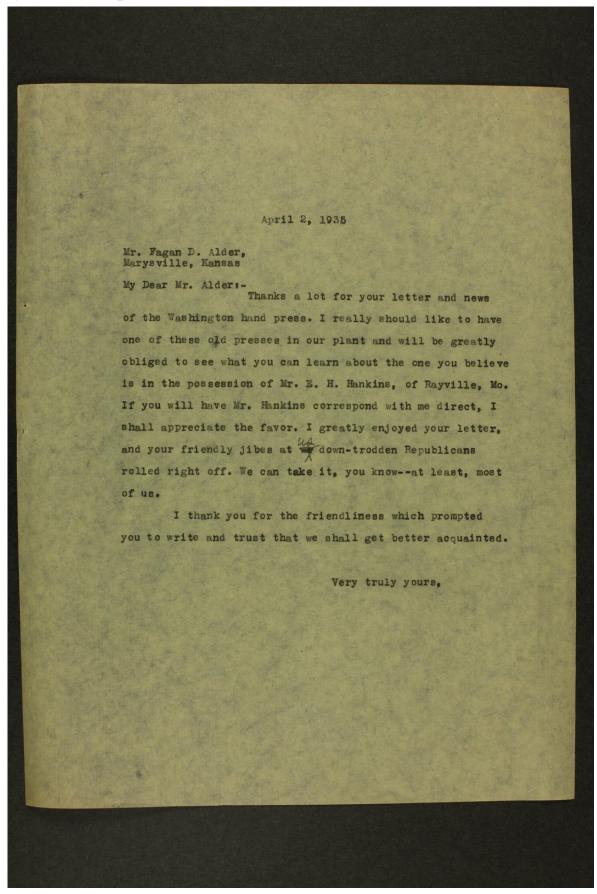




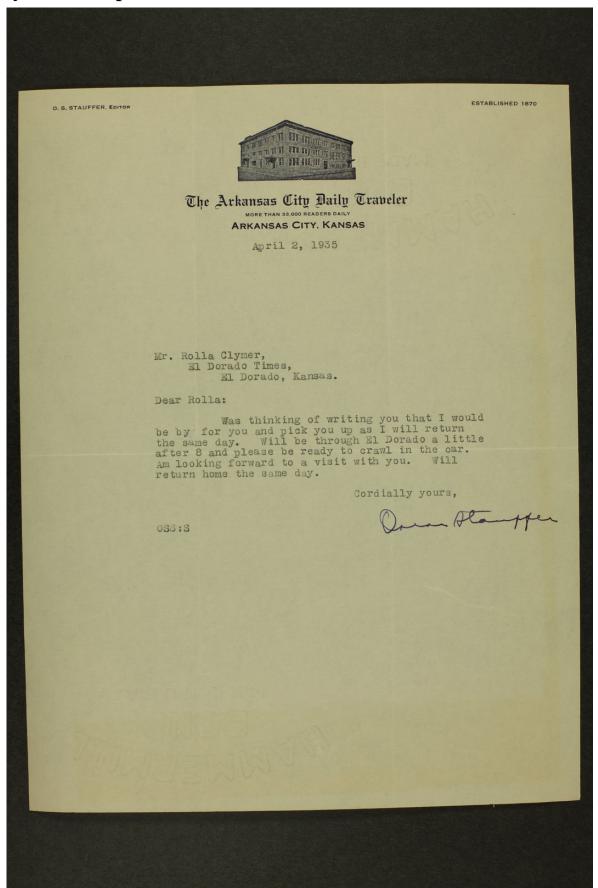


GENERAL FORM	
<b>Ar</b>	ixy
TO VOTE AT MEETINGS O	F THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:	
THAT I,	of Member) do hereby
constitute and appoint GEORGE H. ADAMS, Daily G. Palladium, Benton Harbor, Mich.; STANLEY T. BLA Press, Mankato, Minn.; R. B. CHANDLER, Register, M. DENNIS, Dispatch, Henderson, N. C.; R. J. EDWARE EWING, Times, Shreveport, La.; ROBERT H. GOR Telegraph, Colorado Springs, Colo.; JAMES HAMMC HARRELL, Californian, Bakersfield, Calif.; BEN S. H. Anderson, Ind.; JAMES KERNEY, JR., Gazette and T. Examiner, San Francisco, Calif.; ROBERT R. O'BRIE ligencer and News, Wheeling, W. Va.; S. A. PERK, ARDSON, Advocate, Danville, Ky.; W. J., SEWALL, graph, Dixon, Ill.; ERNEST G. SMITH, Times-Leade Post, New York City, acting among themselves by maplace and stead, with full power of substitution, to vol members of THE ASSOCIATED PRESS to be held of said Convention, as fully and with the same force an and all matters that may come before said meeting.	ČK, Times, Pawtucket, R.I.; J. A. CALLAHAN, Free biblie, Ala.; A. M. CLAPP, Herald, Clinton, Ia.; H. A. 5, Record and Chronicle, Denton, Texas; JOHN D. 5, Daily News, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; C. C. HAMLIN, UD, Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Tenn.; ALFRED UDSON, Herald, Fredonia, Kan.; J. A. KEEFE, Herald, mes, Trenton, N. J.; JOHN FRANCIS NEYLAN, The N, Nonpareil, Council Bluffs, Ia.; H. C. OGDEN, Intel- NS, Daily Olympian, Osympia, Wash.; W. V. RICH- Press, Carthage, Mo.; MRS. MABEL S. SHAW, Tele- , Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; J. DAVID STERN, New York ority vote, attorneys and agents for me and in my name, e as my proxy at the 1935 Annual Convention of the n the 22nd day of April, 1935, and at any adjournment
, 1935.	
	(Signature of Member)
	(Name of Newspaper)
	(Place of Publication)
N O T "No salaried officer or employee of this Cor (By-Laws, Art	

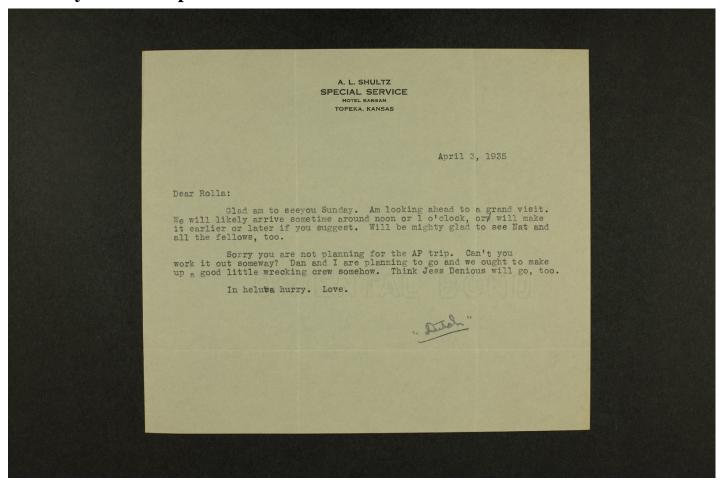














#### Rolla Clymer correspondence



1821-1823 Central St.

KANSAS CITY, MO. April 3, 1935

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

Dear friend Rolla:

I surely want to thank you for yours of the 27th. I have already heard from Will Beck, in fact, I saw him at Topeka last Tuesday and he said he would do his stuff.

While there I talked with Mr. Austin and, of course, I didn't mention anything to him except rollers and at that time I don't believe he had received Bill's letter. He promised that he would give us consideration and that the order would be let soon, but up to this writing a week later we have heard nothing from it. However, we still have hopes as we don't believe that he would go contrary to the wishes of his friends and besides he seems very friendly towards us.

I saw one of your boy friends last week and he sent his best regards. He seemed to be getting along pretty well.

We will start next week to make summer rollers so tell the boys down there to get busy so they will not be in the last minute rush.

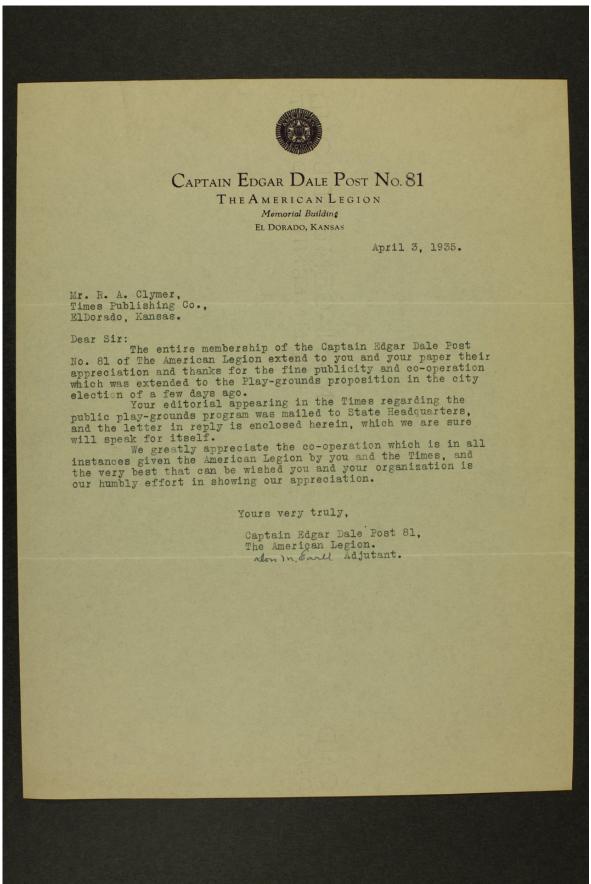
As soon as you find out about the golf dates at Wichita don't forget us as we want to know this as soon as possible. With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours

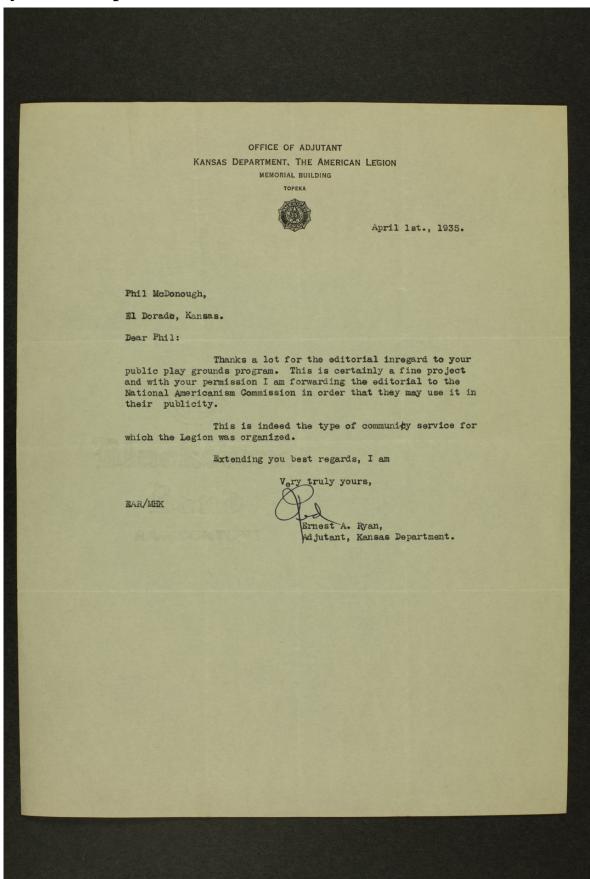
GRT:L

Vice President

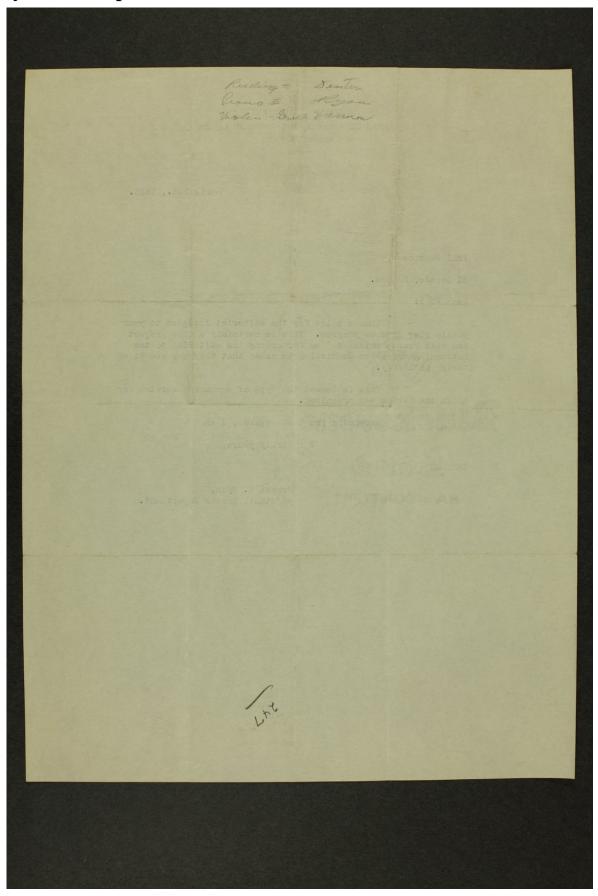




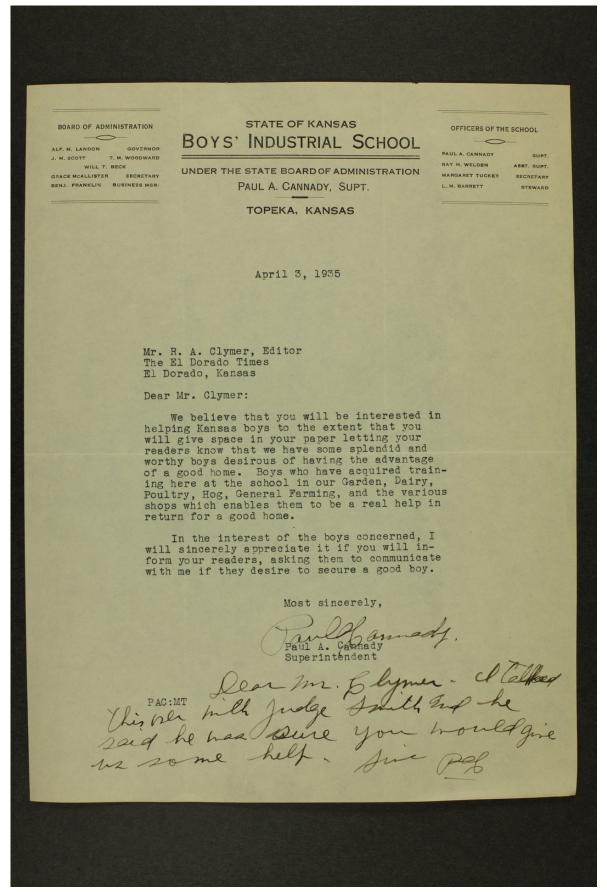




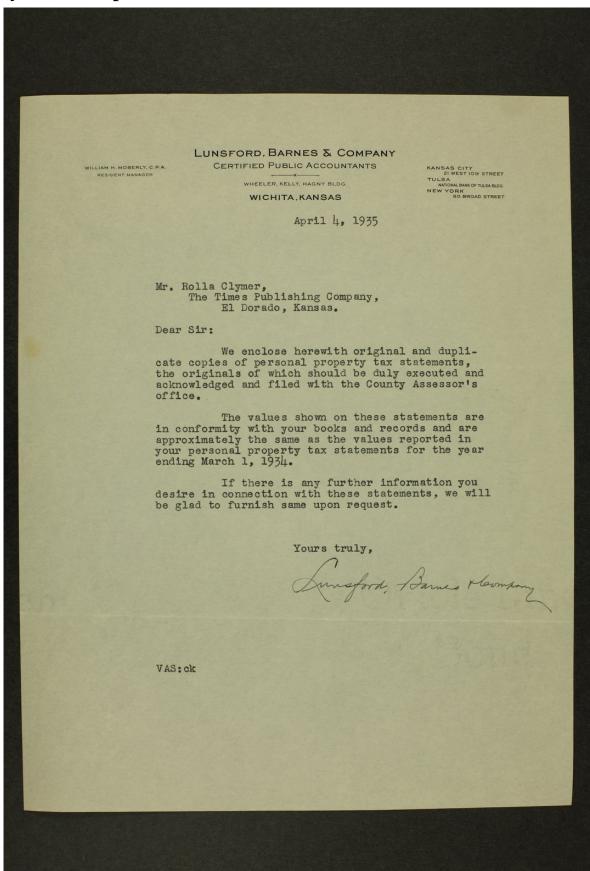




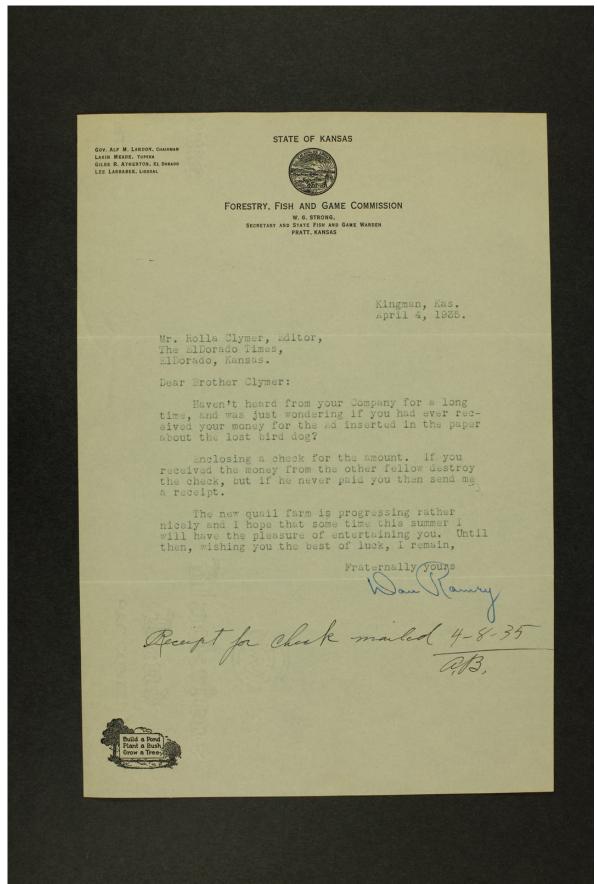














#### Rolla Clymer correspondence



April 4, 1935

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

Dear Mr. Clymer:

Having been bombarded with Pros and Cons on the A. P. Committee of twenty five (25), and having just given a speech on the inequalities of popular vote on our Republican form of Government (copy enclosed) - it occurred to me that the election of Directors to the A. P. was as lopsided on the conservative side as the election of U. S. Senators is on the radical.

I have given considerable study to this A. P. controversy, decided to give the "25" my proxy, and you my reason for doing so.

Newspaperly speaking, I am suspicious of everything that W. E. Hearst does or is connected with. Yet, I realize as far as the average small paper is concerned, that we can expect nothing from the present Board of A. P. Directors, except through the aid of the Hearst interests or influence.

I firmly believe that the small papers of this country should have representation on the A. P. Board of Directors, not only in the mammer suggested by the Committee of twenty-five, but that at least seven of the fifteen Directors should be elected by papers in cities under 250,000, and only papers falling under the different classifications should be allowed to vote. Thus, if we give a Director to papers in cities of 15,000, or less, let only those members in those size cities vote for that Director. It would be even better if we elected our Directors regionally, say divide the country into five districts and then elect one Director in each district for cities under 100,000, one in each district for cities under 500,000, and the other five in cities over 500,-000, letting papers vote for those Directors that come within their different classifications and limits.



#### Rolla Clymer correspondence

-2-

Wire photo and plebiscite; I doubt the complete wisdom of the plebiscite proposals; however, if the present directors do not want plebiscites, let them divide the directorship in such a maner that all groups making up the A.P. membership have similar voice and equal rights and we will need no plebiscite. However, my proxy goes for the plebiscite vote at present.

Wire Photo: The engaging of the A.P. in wire photo, or other enterprises for the benefit or exclusive rights of a special group of papers, is building a class within a class and is contrary to the ideals of a mutal assocation like the A.P.

I do not have to tell you that the dominant trait of human endeavor is selfishness. If you belive for one minute, that these large papers are going to pay from \$500. to \$3,000. per week for wire photo and not use it to the disadvantage of the small daily, you still believe in Santa Claus.

Put yourself in the place of a large daily, paying \$1,000. a week for wire photo; you would demand at least \$1,000. a week protection over the surrounding territory; you would insist on time protection over the small dailies of your neighborhood. The A.P. directors will tell you that this could be so, if a group of big papers and not the A.P. took over wire photo service. O.K. if they did, but at least our own funds, prestige and local coverage would not unfairly be used to our own disadvantage.

Now, if the A.P. had taken wire photo; put in a dozen receiving stations in key centers, sent photos out at cost to all members desiring same, pro ratio to little papers like our present wire service; put release dates so no big paper could scoop a little paper, then I would gladly withdraw my objections.

Continuance of mutuality of A.P. means similar service to all members at the same time at an equality of cost. Any other policy will wreck our beloved organization -- Institutions die from dry rot on the inside and get their reforms and new blood from the outside. I am sure no harm can come to the A.P. through my or your proxy going to the committee of twenty-five.

I am in receipt of the following telegram, signed by Chas. Spencer of the Independence Kansas Reporter;

"Storm here 5:30 P.M. February 24, had pictures of it in hands A.P. Kanas City midnight that day. Star of February 25. Circulated here February 26. Carried best of lot but A.P. forgot to include mats of storm to us. February 27, carried our own made at Wichita. But wire photo did not enter our problem this occasion. However, it does on wire photo features by being always a day or two ahead of us"

While the publisher says wire photo did not enter in this case, it looks to me as if this small paper dutifully served the A.P. sending them photos of an intersting local event and in return the Big City paper scoops them. The A.P. sends mats to the little paper two days after big paper scoops local territory, but leaves out tornado mats and in order to salve the little paper, the A.P. makes only another mistake, a local mistake this time instead of a nation wide one.



#### Rolla Clymer correspondence

-3-

There is something in the Bible about not being able to serve two masters at the same time. My own belief is that the A.P. management has its hands full to cover the news of the day; Witness in the past year, more serious blunders in news coverage have taken place, such as Hauptmann fiasco and Supreme Gold decision, etc., than during the entire former history of A.P. When the A.P. served as a mutual news gathering organization, its service, reputation and ethics were unquestioned. Such is not the case today. It is much more important to me that the A.P. management use its time and energy giving out truthful news reports to entire membership than expediting photo service for 39 large papers. In all fairness, I think there is more danger of the A.P. being destroyed through arbitrary acts of its self, perpetuating oligarchy of directorship and management than any attack from an outside force.

I have contacted many small daily publishers and find them in sympathy with the committee of "25" plan in general, but suspicious of the "Hearst" Interest and also afraid of some retaliatory discrimination if they do not support the A.P. directors. Both fears are equally foolish. I think Mr. Hearst's plans are selfish, but he has more to gain than any other dozen publishers through efficiency in the A.P.; more to save by elimination of waste; more to lose through management blunders. The few thousand dollars his attorneys spend in literature, etc., on this proposition are not nearly in proportion to the hundred or so I am spending sending out this letter.

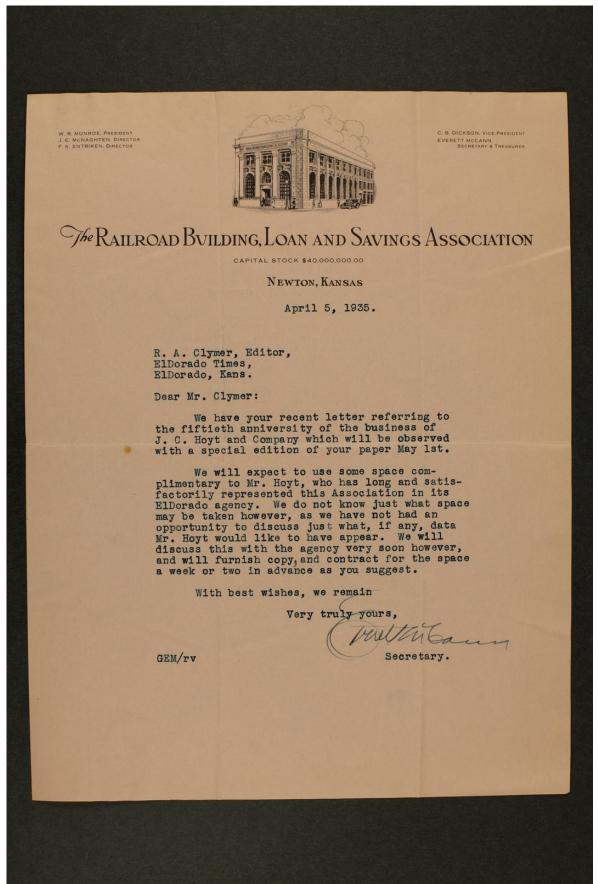
My interest is also selfish. I can see further inroads into my local field through this latest A.P. wire photo move for the metropolitan papers. I want the A.P. to stay mutual in fact as well as fancy. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

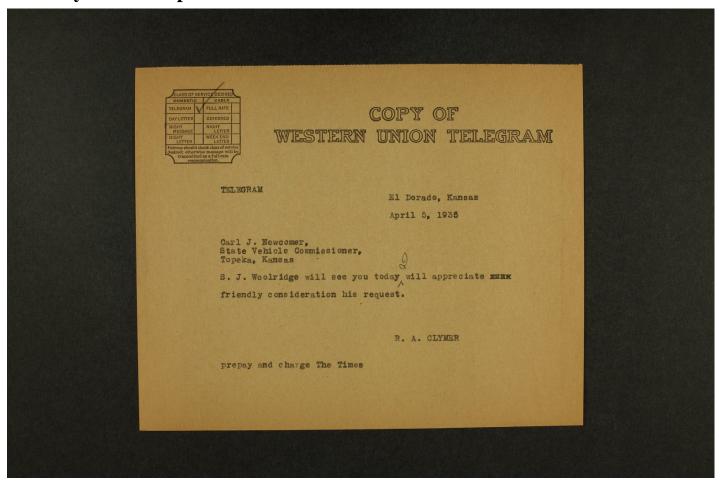
Publisher
Ogden Standard-Examiner.

P.S. The enclosed article has taxation features that should interest every publisher in towns under 100,000. Also on the back page is another letter written to Senators King and Borah which has caused quite a comment in Washington. Your reactions are invited.

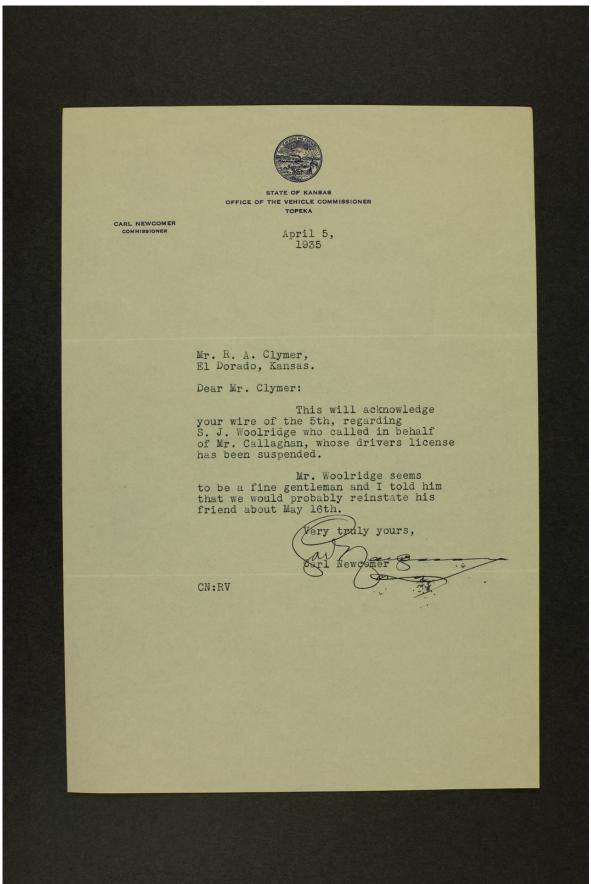














#### Rolla Clymer correspondence

#### THE ADVOCATE-DEMOCRAT

H. M. & L. R. BRODRICK, PUBLISHERS

MARYSVILLE, KANSAS April 5,1955

Fri end Elmer:

Do you stall have the old Washington hand press that we used to print the Enterprise on?

A friend out here will buy it if it is for sale. He wents to use it for a proofing press. Just drop me a line if you still have it and I will have him write you.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Fagan D.Alder.

Dear Fagan:-

There's nothing left but the Rayville Enterprise sign; if you can make use of that I will send it gratis.

The best of regards,

E.H.H.

Mister Clymer:

Got a new Underwood. What you think of her. You will note from the above that we didn't even have a narrow escape. This will acknowledge recempt of your thanks and will tip you off that I greatly appreciate your gratitude --- misplaced as it was . Don't forget to file that change of party affiliation with your county clerk ... . Alder.



#### Rolla Clymer correspondence

716 Maryland Avenue Columbia, Missouri April 7, 1935

Editor
THE ELDORADO TIMES
Eldorado, Kansas

Dear Sir:

I am writing on the suggestion of a journalism friend,
Earldon Davis, who graduated from the Missouri School of Journalism in January of this year and who is now employed with his
brother's newspaper in Whitewater, Kansas. He informed me that
it is your practice to put on summer drives and recommended an
application to your paper.

It is not unknown to me that summer jobs are rarely given out on mere letter applications these days. However, I feel confident that my credentials are of enough value to deserve serious consideration.

My newspaper experience includes the editorship of the Oneida (N. Y.) High School Dial, a column of high school news for the Oneida (N. Y.) Democratic Union, reporting and subscription canvassing for the Syracuse (N. Y.) Herald, and a member of the editorial staff of the Missouri Student, official student organ of the University of Missouri. I am an undergraduate student in the School of Journalism here.

My main object in attempting to secure newspaper work for the summer is not to make money but to gain experience in my chosen field. I only desire to make living expenses. I hope this will convince you of my sincerity.



