

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Section 666, Pages 19951 - 19980

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

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Rolla Clymer correspondence

LAW OFFICES OF
W. H. COUTTS, JR.
Citizens State Bank Building
EL DORADO, KANSAS

December 8, 1941

Dear Rolla:

Sorry that I did not get to see you a week ago Sunday. I was in the office from nine until two in the afternoon, called several times but the phone did not answer, and before I left I called your house, however, David said that you were asleep and I told him not to bother you.

Everything is going along as planned at the ranch as far as the title is concerned, however, I am in a quandry concerning the tenant proposition. After a considerable amount of investigation I have two tenants who appear would be suitable for their respective jobs. By that I mean, one of these tenants would be suitable if we are going to actively operate the ranch this coming year. The other one would be suitable if we were not going to operate the ranch this coming year, but merely mark time pending properly stocking it at a later date. Neither of these prospective tenants would be of any value to us except for their given method of handling the ranch.

Therefore, before I can put either of them on the ranch I must have knowledge of your ideas as to what you wish done, and as previously explained we should move someone on the ranch and get the buildings occupied as all kinds of damage and depravation could occur.

Another element that enters into the picture and must be taken into consideration is the fact that if we are to actively operate the ranch it will be necessary for me to buy another car as, by necessity, I will need to make occasional trips to the ranch. I do not like to drive the Packard as it is expensive to operate on such long trips, and then, too, I cannot drive it in that it cuts Martha out of transportation and of course she must have a car each and every day in view of the fact that Bud is going to school.

I mention these things in order that you may assist me in arriving at a solution of our problems. I have no occasion to purchase another car unless the ranch is to be actively operated this year. If it is to be actively operated there is no way that I can circumvent such a purchase. You will remember that I pointed out some of the legal entanglements that could occur in the event of fire or destruction of the buildings upon the place, and frankly, these have worried me considerably.

In due time if you will set out your ideas and suggestions I will indeed greatly appreciate it.

With best regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Hall

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Message of Gov. Payne Ratner
~~Ground-breaking ceremony~~ → *Dedication Luncheon*
Jayhawk Ordnance Works plant site
Pittsburg, Kan., Dec. 8, 1941

For PMs December 8

Immediately after learning yesterday of the tragic and shocking developments in the Pacific, I telegraphed to the President of the United States that Kansas stands ready to do her part in defending America in unified action against aggression and dishonor.

As governor, I pledged to the President, the commander-in-chief of America's armed forces, the full resources and facilities of Kansas, and the loyal, devoted, and consecrated efforts of all our people. *(Telegram)*

→ * I must therefore cancel my engagement in Pittsburg today in order to be on the job for whatever service may be required of me at my post of duty as governor. However, since all our elements of preparedness have assumed such immediate importance, I desire to send you this message:

In breaking ground today for the Jayhawk Ordnance Works plant, we are forging another link in America's chain of national defense.

At the same time, we are hopeful that we are permanently welding into the Kansas economy an industry which will go forward after this war is over, benefitting not only Kansas, but this entire tri-state area.

This ceremony today, and all that it signifies, is the culmination of months of hard work and conscientious effort on the part of many individuals and groups. Both personally and as governor, I want to thank and commend all who have worked with our Kansas Industrial Development Commission, with me, and with other agencies and individuals in making possible the satisfaction that is ours today.

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These include Kenneth Spencer, Senator Arthur Capper, and Senator Robert Lemon; members of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce and other forward-looking citizens of this community; J.C. Nichols of ^{the Mid-West Defense Conference, the Mid-Central War} Kansas City; and other leaders in our neighboring communities of this ^{and organizations} region. It has been a pleasure for me to work with you, and I know that ^{Resources} the members of our Industrial Commission are also greatly appreciative of your cooperation. ^{Board}

From the beginning of the preparedness effort, Kansas has demonstrated in a forceful, positive way her desire to be of service to our country during this time of crisis. We have insisted upon being allocated defense plants and defense contracts because we know that this entire Midwestern section of America is a vast storehouse of natural resources which should and must be used.

We know that we have skilled and loyal labor, as well as efficient management with capacity for big responsibilities. We know that we have an abundance of fuel, and splendid transportational facilities. For these and a host of other compelling reasons, we of Kansas and the Midwest are striving to give to our country the full benefit of all the resources at our command, in order that we may patriotically serve America to the limit of our capabilities.

This Jayhawk Ordnance Works plant is a milepost along our road of patriotic service to America.

When this crisis is over, and peace returns to the world, it is our hope that the plant will be converted into a type of production which will utilize some of our mineral and agricultural products while continuing to benefit labor and management. It may be that this

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undertaking, made imperative by the emergency of this hour, will result in permanent benefits which will result in similar activities in other parts of Kansas.

Our vital concern now, however, is to solve the grim problems of these critical times--to save America from her totalitarian enemies.

To this end, our energies are being directed toward the preparation of defense bulwarks which will withstand any and every test. Nearly 32,000 Kansas men are now wearing the uniform of our country, serving with thousands and thousands of others in the armed forces of the United States.

Within the plants and factories of our network of industrial preparedness are thousands of men and women directly engaged in defense work. Wherever Americans toil--at machines, in the mines, on the farm--they are adding to the strength of this nation, and they are weakening the menace of Japanese aggression and Hitlerism.

Every person who had a part in obtaining this ordnance plant we dedicate today has rendered patriotic service to our country. Every person who helps in the building of the plant, and every person who is employed here after it is completed, will be serving America.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

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(COPY OF TELEGRAM)

"While we pray to God that the first reports of the tragic happenings in the Pacific today may not be accurate, and that war, therefore, may not be necessary, yet if the armed forces of Japan have wantonly attacked American possessions and spilled American blood, then Kansas, now as always in her eighty years of existence, stands ready to do her part in defending America in unified action against aggression and dishonor.

"We pledge all our resources and facilities to the nation if war does come, as we have during the past few months during the great preparedness effort of the nation. In your capacity as commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the United States, we pledge to you our loyal, devoted, and consecrated all-out efforts for our country. I should like to refer to my speech before the Kansas state convention of the American Legion, on August 31st, last:

"You and I, and all other good citizens, should, without petty partisanship, and without carping criticism, rally behind our national government in the performance of two jobs which I consider imperative to the safety of the United States of America. Those two jobs must be performed jointly and simultaneously. Those two jobs are: First, complete military and naval preparedness for the protection of our nation and the western hemisphere--the most effective it is humanly possible to achieve--and, second, the greatest assistance to England that it is possible to accomplish.

"These two jobs cannot be accomplished by a nation divided. They can be realized successfully only by real national unity.

"A great and serious issue is confronting the American people today. It is the future of America. We must not play politics with the safety of our nation. We must be big enough and patriotic enough to rise above

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above partisanship, above personal prejudices. We must decide these questions, not as to what effect they will have on the next election, ^{OR} ~~but~~ upon the future of any political party, but upon one test alone --what is best for the future of America.'"

Payne Ratner, Governor of Kansas.

(End of telegram)

Rolla Clymer correspondence

MINNESOTA AND ONTARIO PAPER COMPANY

MANUFACTURERS
NEWSPRINT, GROUNDWOOD, KRAFT, SULPHITE PAPERS,
INSULITE AND LUMBER PRODUCTS

GENERAL OFFICES
BUILDERS EXCHANGE BUILDING
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA



December 13, 1941

The Times Publishing Co.,
El Dorado, Kansas

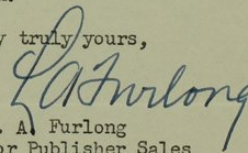
Attention: Mr. R. A. Clymer

Gentlemen:

The basic companies named in our contract with you, covering your newsprint supply, have announced an increase of \$3.00 per ton in their price for newsprint delivered to El Dorado, Kansas, for the second quarter of 1942.

Accordingly, the net cost of newsprint delivered to you during the second quarter of 1942, under our contract, will be \$57.00 per ton.

Very truly yours,



L. A. Furlong
Director Publisher Sales

LAF MS

MILLS AT INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINN., FORT FRANCES, AND KENORA, ONTARIO, CANADA

Rolla Clymer correspondence

LAW OFFICES OF
W. H. COUTTS, JR.
Citizens State Bank Building
EL DORADO, KANSAS

December 17, 1941

Dear Rolla:

I have given considerable thought to actively operating the ranch this year. I firmly believe that 1942 will be a great livestock year and one that should bring big profits in cattle and hogs. By necessity our plans should be rapidly shaping up if we intend to actively operate the ranch. These obstacles loom foreboding and monstrous to me:

1. Lack of time on the part of both of us to attend to the actual management.
2. Lack of ready capital on the part of both of us to take care of the actual operating expense in handling the ranch on a large basis, this taking for granted that we could be able to borrow all of the amount necessary to stock the same with cattle.
3. The necessity of spending money for transportation which, according to my quotations, a Ford or Chevrolet would be as a minimum \$900.00.

Regardless of the optimistic outlook of livestock prices for the reasons set out above it appears to me that we should obtain a tenant merely to preserve the property and not try to operate it. After you have studied my line of reasoning I will appreciate your comments.

Best regards,

Hall

Rolla Clymer correspondence

LAURENCE A. FURLONG
BUILDERS EXCHANGE
MINNEAPOLIS

December 22, 1941

GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES -- May your
Christmas be very merry and the New Year
bring you and yours much happiness and
good health, is the sincere wish of

L A Furlong

Mr. Rollo A. Clymer
El Dorado
Kansas

Rolla Clymer correspondence

This, Too, Shall Pass

*There have been other Christmases when fear
And doubt have filled the mind, and chilled the heart,
When happiness, and sympathy and cheer
Have seemed as alien, as far apart
From us as they do now. And there have been
In all these Christmases, some hardy ones
Who thru the gathering storm clouds still have seen
The promise of a thousand morrows' suns.
The storms have passed. The sunshine has prevailed.
This, too, shall pass. O, heart! Be not dismayed.
By wars alarmed, and fears and doubts assailed!
Still is the Prince of Peace in joy arrayed.
His Day is day of days—a refuge, still,
He has not failed us yet. He never will!*

—M. F. W.

CHRISTMAS 1941

PATRICIA SOLANDER

Rolla Clymer correspondence

LAW OFFICES OF
BROOKS & FLEESON

C. H. BROOKS
HOWARD T. FLEESON
CARL G. TEBBE
WAYNE COULSON
PAUL R. KITCH

801 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
WICHITA, KANSAS

December 26, 1941.

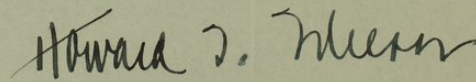
Mr. Rolla Clymer,
c/o El Dorado Times,
El Dorado, Kansas.

Dear Rolla:

I feel satisfied that you mean no harm,
nevertheless your talks with Mrs. Starke are very
disturbing to her. I think, therefore, that here-
after if there is anything in connection with the
paper or with her interest in the paper that you
desire to talk about, that you see me, as I am
fully empowered to act.

Very truly yours,

HTF/h



Rolla Clymer correspondence

STAUFFER PUBLICATIONS

THE ARKANSAS CITY DAILY TRAVELER
ARKANSAS CITY, KANSAS
THE PITTSBURG HEADLIGHT
THE PITTSBURG SUN
PITTSBURG, KANSAS
THE GRAND ISLAND DAILY INDEPENDENT
GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA
THE MARYVILLE DAILY FORUM
MARYVILLE, MISSOURI
SHAWNEE MORNING NEWS
SHAWNEE EVENING STAR
K G F F BROADCASTING COMPANY
SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Topeka, Kansas
December 29, 1941

Mr. R. A. Clymer
Kansas Industrial Development Commission
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Rolla:

Of all the ages in which men have lived, how could any have been more interesting than the one we share now? Like gods men soar through the sky on wings, and like devils men use these same wings to wreak destruction and havoc.

This war will end as wars always have, and out of the ashes will come a new order, one that you and I will be privileged to help build.

So let these two resolutions be on your New Year list:

First, a complete triumph at arms for our country in 1942;

Secondly, that you and I will share in the making of a new and better world.

So, we launch forward to these objectives, Bon Voyage and A Happy New Year.

Cordially yours,

Oscar Stauffer

Rolla Clymer correspondence

1940

friday

dear boss:

Things go along, just go along about like always. Only today a large discontent moves through my soul, for last night I spent in the home of one of the "landed gentry" in one of our choicer suburbs. A big English house, the like of which us inlanders see only in the snooty magazines. And flowers of the size and coloring that makes you want to shout "liar!"

Well, it takes money, all that. You will manage it sometime, but I won't. In fact, you have very nearly managed it right now. How are you, anyway --happy or not? Why don't you tell me?

And by the way, when you think of it, you might have Polly scribble up a Spame check for me. Sort of need it to make a dent on the insurance, # due next month.

Write to me sometime. I am always flattered when you do.

mace

Rolla Clymer correspondence

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING. [1947]

Our classified department is far below what it should be. It is a case of taking this business at the counter or telephone without any selling....how we can build it up under the present conditions I do not know what we can do but I might suggest that it be put under supervision of the advertising department with full authority to build it up. One day last week we made a special effort to see what could be done and we sold more than \$20.00 worth of displayed classified in a short time. The same thing can be done at the counter, instead of trying to save the customer money by cutting off a word or two get more money by adding. That can be done.. Using the telephone especially for reruns and also for new customers.. The classified can be increased 50 to 100 or 200 percent by the proper cooperation and a little work.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

ADVERTISING RATES.

We are not consistent enough with our display rates... some are buying space for 27 cents that do not earn a 35 cent rate, others are buying space at 30 and 32 that do not earn any thing less than a 37 cent rate. Some are on the regular contract, by the year and we have one or two that pay by the month, using the year contract rates only paying for just what space they use by the month.

It will be a hard matter to get them on a contract but it might be possible to put our advertisers on a monthly basis, using the yearly contract rates...charging them just what they use in a calendar month...if they use 150 inches the rate will be 35 cents or is they use 200 inches the rate will be 33 cents and so on. Give a rebate of 1 cent per inch if bill is paid by the 10th following date of space purchased.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

NATIONAL ADVERTISING.

This is another case of the advertising department having authority to handle..there are times that orders for advertising coming through the mail and in the paper before any one has a chance to get tie-ins or know about until it is too late. Several times that I know of, ads ~~has~~ have run before they should have been and we were forced to loose the space, other times they have been overlooked until too late. The orders and correspondence regarding advertising should go through the advertising department, before they are passed to the desk for scheduling. Too many people are looking after this part of the business, or I might say in some cases too few. There are lots of improvement that can be made to increase this business or to better take care of what we have. Lots of errors eliminated by the proper handling of this part of the advertising, such as signatures etc.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

COOPERATING WITH MERCHANTS.

We have not been cooperating with the merchants enough. What I mean by this is that we have not been giving them enough of attention and stories regarding, trips to market, sales, remodeling, removing into larger quarters etc. This has been talked hundreds of times by the merchants up and down the street and with no expense and a little work this can be handled in a way that we can get a lot of good will and get the merchants in a better frame of mind to place more advertising. This will also give us ~~more~~ promotions for more and extra space.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT BETTER ORGANIZED.

I have been as much to blame for this as any one in the department but there has been times that all three of us have been selling or trying to sell the same firms. Our schedule of calls have been overlapping in such a way that we have been passing each other several times in during a short period of time. When we have had special pages and sections, either both making layouts for the pages or none being made until the last minute. By losing space because we thought some one else was handling the accounts etc. We have plenty of room for improvement in this department and I think that it all can be worked out if some one has complete charge of this department.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

HOUSE ORGAN.

Think that we could publish a monthly house organ for advertisers, building up good will, articles pertaining to special days, advise about copy and layouts, data on special pages, editions etc, outlining campaigns for advertising, general instructions and advise especially for small space advertising. I have a lot of ideas on this that I think would build more space and show the advertisers that we take an interest in them and want to help them with their layouts, copy, campaigns etc.

This all can be done by personal contact but if we can get an attractive small house organ, 8 1/2 x 11 about 4 to 8 pages I think that we can get them to reading it each month and help us sell more space and get some new accounts.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

The Times Press. [1947]

You will likely tell me this is none of my business but there are a few things about the job shops that I have noticed in the last year and half that I worked here that you likely do not know a thing about. and at one time this place was my "baby" and I would like to see you make money there. I am going to list them here and want to tell you although I have wanted to say something about them several times in the past I did not feel like I could, until now.

Lack of interest in going after jobs.

No selling, very few calls being made.

Closing shop at almost all hours on Saturdays and too early other evenings. This is still a small town.

Too much time spent on street and loafing where there is no business. No one to give information or figure jobs.

High priced men working in girls jobs, bindery and feeding job presses. When

Lack of interest in delivery of jobs to customers at time promised. (over)

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Please do not think that I am sticking my nose into your
business but as I said before I would like to see you
get the shop on a paying basis.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

[1941]
Sunday

Dear Boss:

Thanks for them kind words. For your information it should have been "bomb-scarred" in the last paragraph. That's one on the operator and on L. P. who read proof. I shall send W. A. W. a tear sheet tomorrow. All is well at the home port.

Sincerely,
Flint

Rolla Clymer correspondence

June: P.M.

1941

my Dear Dear boy
your fine letter
came today I was wanting to hear
from you I will be glad when I
know you are all well.
We have had no word from the folks
am glad you hear for we have
I am all tired out for we have
had so much company today.
We are glad to have it cooler.
Say dear boy I wish you would
use some of that building and loan
money now when you have so much
to pay. please do. Mary will write we
wanted you to have word before
Sun. let us know about your money
next week. I send an abundance
of love and affection, your
mother E. S. Clymer
I am still thinking of our nice visit
Sun.

Dear Rolla:

This seems to have
been our day for company
and Mother is all tired

Rolla Clymer correspondence

out. She still seems to feel better and I am glad. just hope it lasts.

We didn't hear from the folks this week. Guess they were too busy to write. Well I am glad they are having a nice time.

We have a girl engaged to stay with Mother. She is a girl I know and I think she will be good. We are going to try it any - way. If this doesn't work out we will have to try some - thing else.

I will be busy the next two weeks getting ready for school to start. Rather dread it this year, but guess I will

Rolla Clymer correspondence

get through O.K. as I
always have

We did enjoy your
visit Sun. and hope
you are continuing to
improve. It is no fun
to be sick.

Write when you can
as we are always glad
to hear from you.

Love your Sister

Andy

Rolla Clymer correspondence

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

DAILY
COMBINED CIRCULATION
MORNING AND EVENING
600,000

SUNDAY
CIRCULATION
320,000

WEEKLY
CIRCULATION 450,000
PAID-IN-ADVANCE
SUBSCRIBERS

January 1, 1942.

Mr. R.A. Clymer,
Topeka,
Kansas.

Dear Rolla:

I want to thank you for sending me the story about the jackrabbits and how Jackrabbit grease now is a big Kansas industry. It made a swell feature story, I thought.

We ran it in The Times a day or so later, in case you didn't happen to see it. Like all newspapermen, I have an itch to work a story over, which wasn't necessary, but I couldn't keep my hands off. I just want you to know I appreciated your sending it to me a lot.

Since the war declaration I've been completely out of touch with what's going on in Kansas. I'll probably be over for Kansas Day when the politicians try to find some candidate material. We've been plugging around some with civilian defense stories and mostly wondering whether a newspaperman is worth shooting in such circumstances.

As a sign of the times, Paul Wellman was drafted to lend a hand on the telegraph desk several weeks ago, which means no one is writing Kansas editorials at present. Roy Roberts got rid of his appendix recently and the paper is rocking along.

Here's best wishes to you for a better New Year and a state with the prairies filled with smokestacks.

Sincerely,

Alvin S. McCoy
Alvin S. McCoy.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Burnett Place
 Jan. 2nd 1942.
 Mr. Rolla Clymer.
 Old. Cal. Rolla.
 Well, I see by the paper, that you are
 fairly busy. how is everything
 going D. H. I hope how is Ruby
 getting along. I often think of you
 both, and wonder if your mother
 is still here. Well, time sure flies
 it don't hardly seem possible but
 I haul a boy in the air and he
 has been in over two years &
 a daughter is married it don't
 seem that long since we lost
 the delivery of groceries & you
 knocked me off the wagon with a
 tin can at the Carter Barn, but
 there has been a lot of things happen

2

Since then I am in the Product
Business & have been for 11 years
but it seems to me a little
each year. if it continues to I will
have to get me another job.
Rolla, I see that you are Director
of the Industrial Commission I
have been wondering if there was
any kind of Business that would
like to move in here for instance
some Canning Factory we have
water works & sewerage here now
and land that would produce
any thing in that line they
might want we sure need
something to help build the
community up. There is plenty of
Rail service also if there should
be something you know of it

3

Sure would be appreciated by
Every one. Tell Baby to drop me
a line and let me know how
she is. I am married but that
hasnt kept a guy from wondering
about the old Gang we had.
the best times of life with you
Ever come here. dont fail to look
me up. Well wishing you the best
of luck. I remain as ever
Very Truly yours
Wm. Leonard



DEPARTMENT of PRINTING

LEROY BREWINGTON, *Supervisor*



Kansas State Teachers College
PITTSBURG, KANSAS

L. G. CUTLER, *Printing and Related Information*
JOHN P. GILBREATH, *Linotype*
HARRY C. SHUTE, *Presswork and Bindery*

Jan. 8

Dear Mr. Clymer:

I am enclosing a printed letter and folder pertaining to the special program the Kansas Press is supporting to enable the Kansas shops to have sufficient operators to carry through the war period.

We have gone to considerable trouble to make possible this special offering to any one desiring to learn to operate the Linotype. Won't you please take this matter up before your general assembly next week at the Press

Linotype

Linotype Mechanism

Press

Bindery

Composition

Proofreading

Cost Finding

Estimating

Advertising