

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Section 726, Pages 21751 - 21780

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

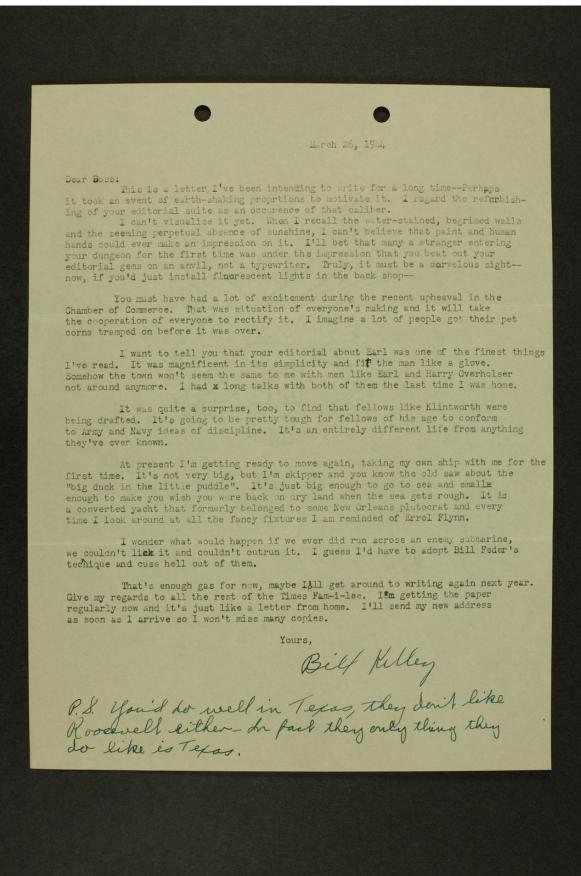
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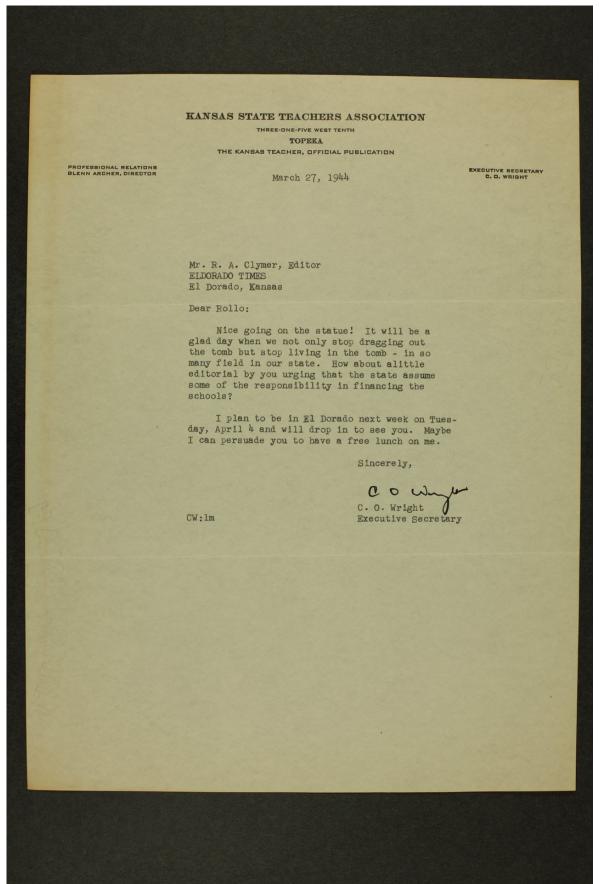
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY



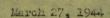








Rolla Clymer correspondence



Mr. Paul I. Wellman, Kansas City, Mo.

About a month ago, Ben Hibbs, of the Saturday
Evening Post, gave me permission to submit an article about
the urge of the Middle West to increase its industrial stature.
He was particularly insistent that it be no Chamber of Commerce
blurb and really tell the story of Middle West aspirations.
I have slugged away hard at it, but have the feeling it is not
much good. In the first place, I have never written for the
magazines and don't know that technique. In the second, I have
frankly had the buck ague over the idea for writing for a publication that has always been my Bible. So I need some help.

I am going to impose upon you to the extent of asking if you will look over the first draft of this menuscript and give me the benefit of your opinion. I do not want you to spend a lot of time at the chore but if you can point out my errors and shortcomings, I shall be grateful. I expect you to lay on the gad and shall be goverful eager to profit by your criticism. You can hardly know--or do you?--how much help this will be to me.

I am a greenhorn about the whole biznai. Please tell me what the rules are for copy sheets.—82xll.—or what other size? And when you submit the nanuscript, do you enclose postage for return in event of non-acceptance? A few tips like these will be most helpful. Hibbs has warned me fairly that my effort in this regard is only a gamble, which I am glad to take, but I should naturally like to make my bet as strong as possible.

I read the review on your new book in Saturday's Star and am eager to read it. I am on the book committee at our local library and will see that it is ordered pronto.

I realize I am asking a lot of you, but I greatly esteem your judgment and superior experience in such matters and will be under no end of obligation to you. If you can drop me a note of acquiescence, I can send the manuscript along in a few days.

Sincerely your friend,



Rolla Clymer correspondence

Topeka, Kansas March 27, 1944

PROGRESS REPORT

TO ALL MEMBERS
KANSAS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

Fager and I spent the entire week in Chicago making contacts and laying the groundwork for him to follow through.

About the only report which I can give about Chicago is that the reactions from all contacts were of the finest and convince me more than ever that persons outside of Kansas know nothing about Kansas and are perfectly willing to learn and are amazed when they do find out.

On my return to the office, I find quite a file of letters acknowledging receipt of copies of the Brochure. These letters are from legislators, newspaper editors, etc. It definitely is refreshing to read these as they are very complimentary concerning the Brochure and the Commission.

What we must have is a very large reprint of this Brochure and provision made for the correct personal distribution.

The field is fertile. We have the seed and, in my opinion, it will be a matter of criminal negligence on our part if we fail to properly exploit this Brochure and the film at this time.

In other words, some way must be found to secure the necessary money for ordering several additional prints of the film and for reprinting several additional thousand copies of the Brochure.

The proprosal which I offered some weeks past of securing funds from industries for a national advertising campaign is, in my opinion, in order now. This money can be used for additional copies of the film and the Brochure. Surely with the reaction which we have received from legislators to this Brochure there would be no criticism of such a move. The Santa Fe, Union Pacific and a few other companies were approached concerning their printing this book in quantities.

Very truly yours

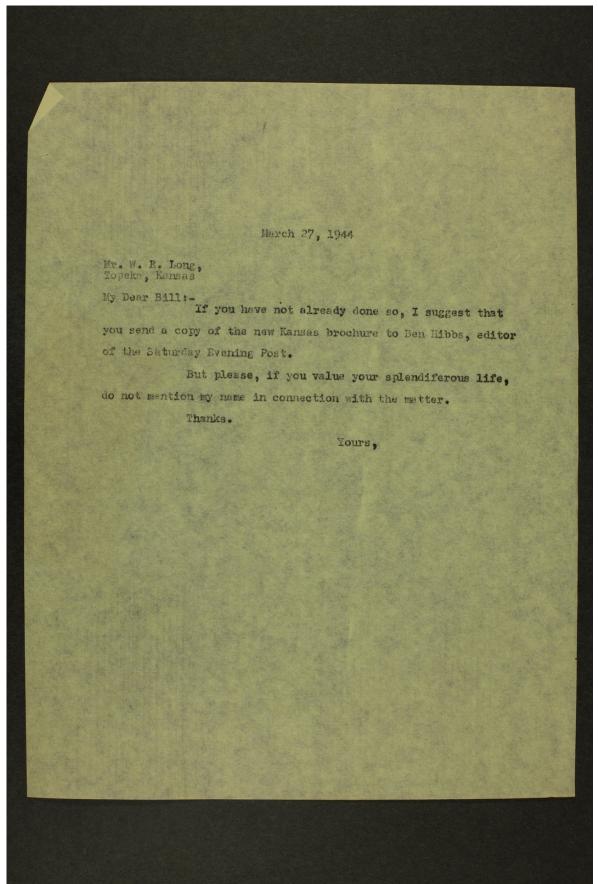
KANSAS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

William E. Long Secretary-Director

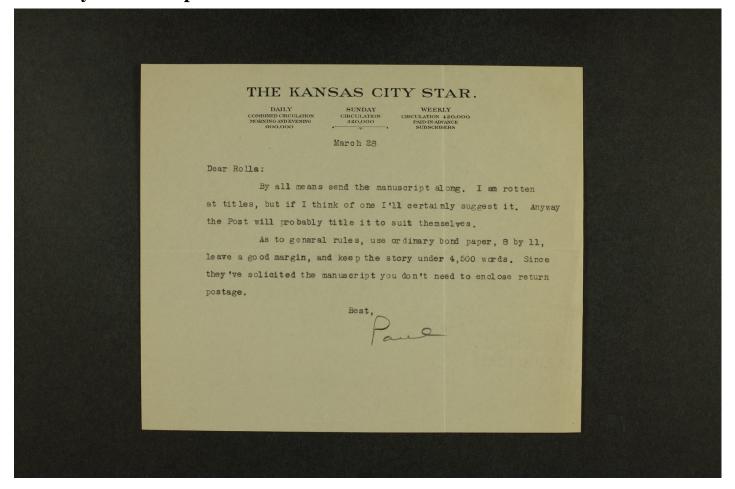
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Further details concerning any of these activities will be furnished upon request.











Rolla Clymer correspondence

LAW OFFICES OF

BROOKS & FLEESON

WICHITA, KANSAS

March 28, 1944.

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

Dear Rolla:

I want to thank you for sending me the report on examination for the year 1943. It is pleasing to note that for the year you quadrupled your profit from operations over the preceding year, particularly in the face of increased labor costs amounting to \$2,000.00 and nearly \$3,000.00 in news print and supplies. Particularly pleasing is the increase of \$5,383.00 in the price paid for the paper. While revenues from advertising vary from year to year, it is my thought that the subscription price for the paper should not in the future drop below the price which you are now not in the future drop below the price which you are now charging, and it may well be that you should consider a higher price for the paper if costs continue to increase. Please understand that I am not recommending an increase, but merely suggesting that it be kept in mind if costs in-

I liked particularly the decrease on the liability side of the balance sheet in notes payable to bank. This shows a decrease of \$4,750.00, and I have no doubt that by the end of the year you will have the \$2,500.00 still owing entirely wiped out.

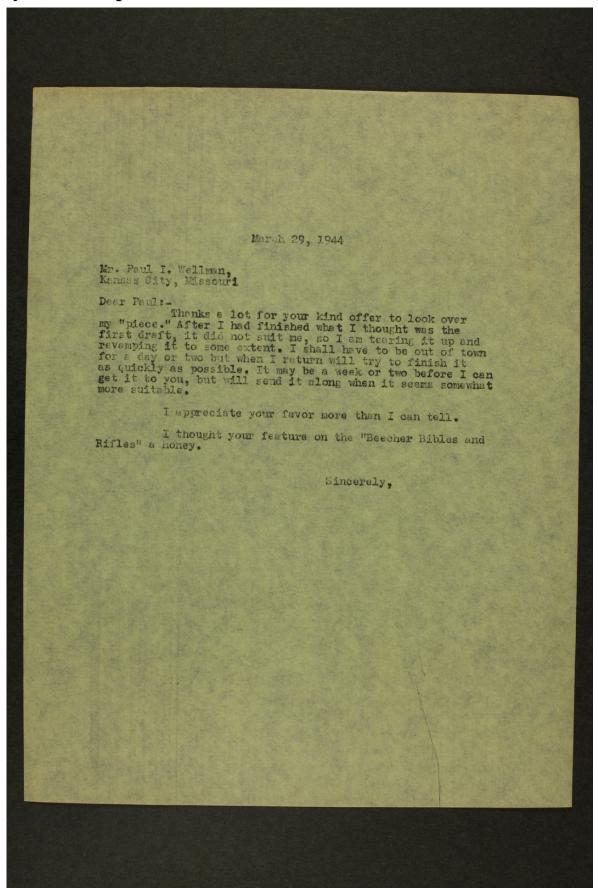
The job that you have done with the paper in the last two years is simply remarkable and I want you to know that Mrs. Starke, and I am sure Mrs. Adams, are deeply appreciative of the fine work you are doing.

With kindest regards, I am

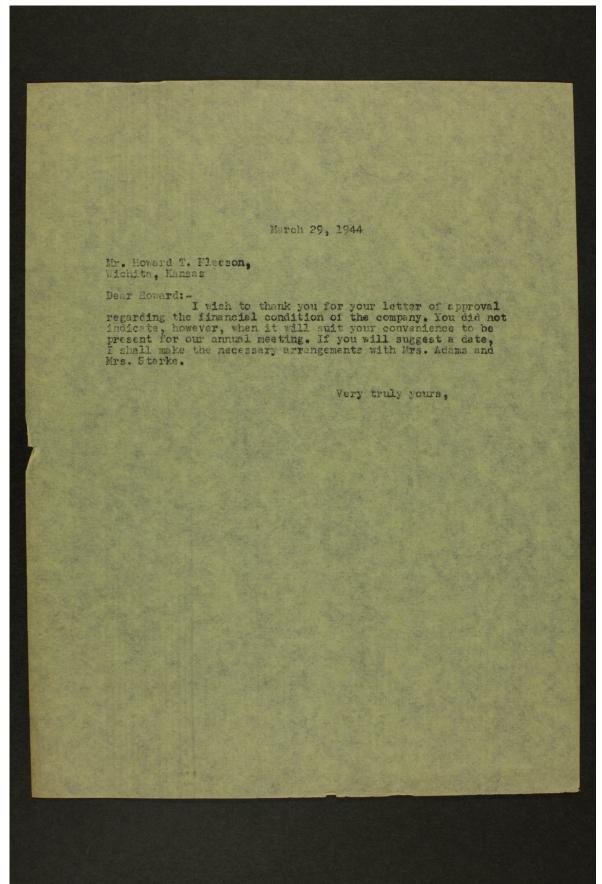
cc - Mrs. E. F. Adams
Mrs. Ellina C. Starke

Very truly yours,

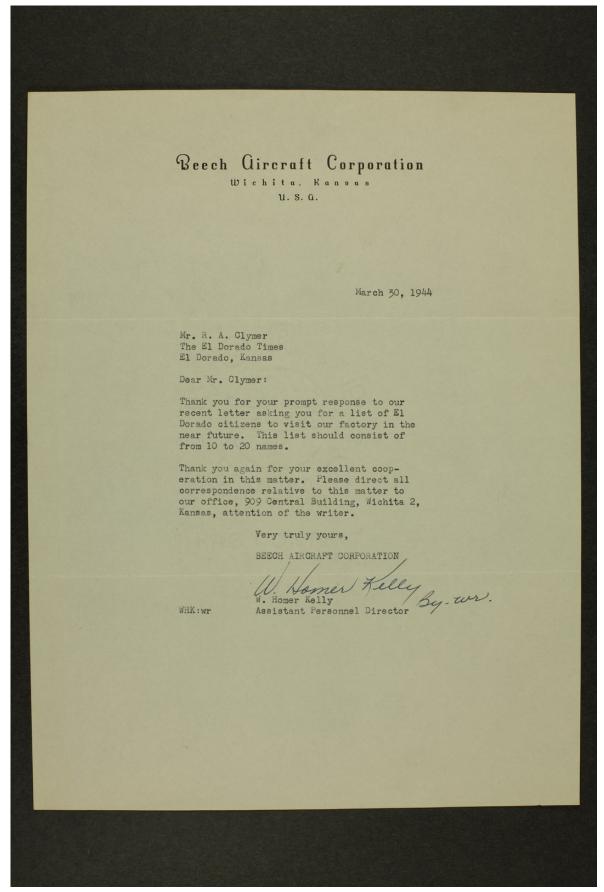




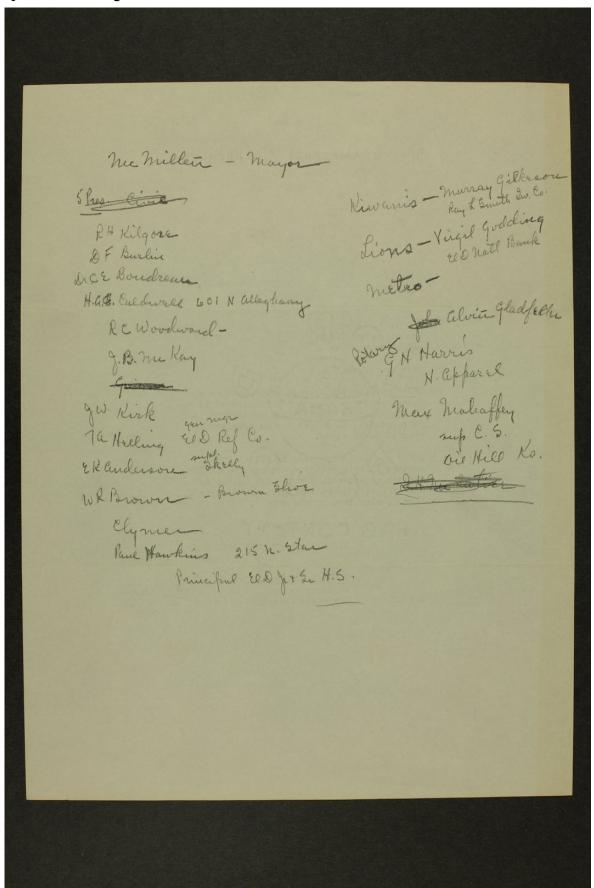










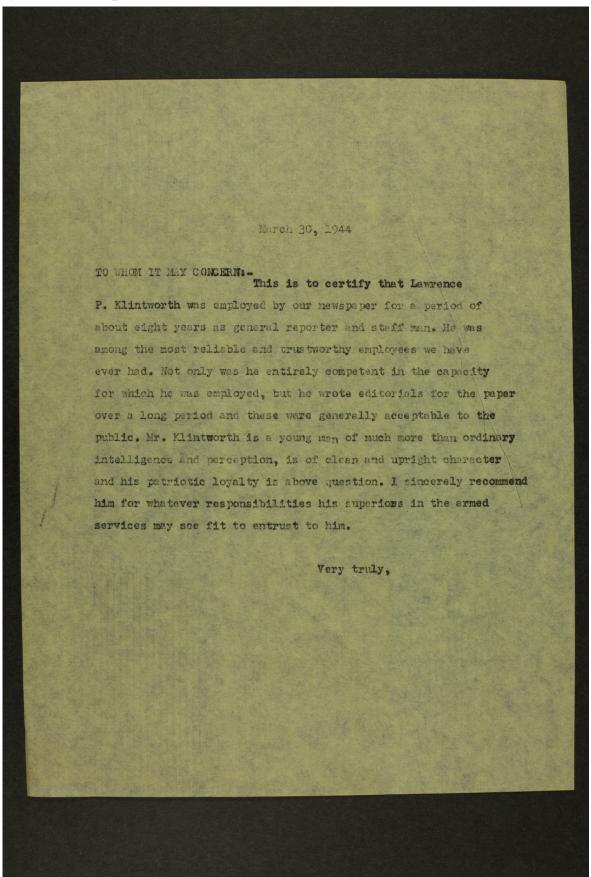




Rolla Clymer correspondence

LAW OFFICES OF BROOKS & FLEESON WICHITA, KANSAS March 30, 1944. Mr. R. A. Clymer, c/o El Dorado Times, El Dorado, Kansas. Dear Rolla: Answering your letter of March 29, let me state that I am tied up pretty well for the first two weeks in April. I have to go east the first week and west the second week. Can we set the annual meeting tentatively for the 25th of April? Very truly yours, Homy I Hum HTF/h cc - Mrs. Ellina C. Starke.







Rolla Clymer correspondence

Topeka, Kansas March 31, 1944

TO ALL MEMBERS . KANSAS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

Some four weeks ago Mr. M. S. Rukeyser, International News Service financial commentator, talked to the Knife and Fork Club in Topeka. I was fortunate in being invited to have lunch with him along with five or six other persons and sat by his side during the Knife and Fork meeting that night.

This gave me an opportunity to present him with a brochure and to do some "selling" for Kansas. I also indicated that we would not be disappointed in case he should care to write an article on Kansas for his syndicated column. He promised to do so and stated he would send me a copy.

Yesterday I received a clipping from him from the Los Angeles Examiner and also a clipping of the same column taken from the Detroit Times, sent to me by a friend of mine. This column has apparently gone all over the United States and is as follows:

RUKEYSER--Spokesman For Kansas Tells Of Oil Assets

By M. S. Rukeyser

Int'l News Service Financial Commentator

TOPEKA, Kan., March 20.--Former Governor Alfred M. Landon, who had mental reservations as to the outcome of the elections in 1936 and 1940, told me that he believes that the Republicans will win next November. He still believes that Governor Thomas E. Dewey is likely to get the Republican nomination.

It's a long time since the late William Allen White asked "What's the matter with Kansas?" One trouble was an inferiority complex and a tendency on the part of politicians to publicize its poverty rather than its immense potential wealth.

But all that is now behind the state, which used to make the mistake of being publicized only as a wheat-growing commonwealth. The state government has now set up the Kansas Industrial Development Commission to tell the world that Kansas has all the basic ingredients for an important postwar industrial development.

Instead of continuing to hide its light under a bushel, the state has retained William E. Long, retired industrialist and spokesman for the commission, who is prepared to reorient Kansas in the national thinking.



Rolla Clymer correspondence

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"In addition to wheat," Mr. Long explained to me, "Kansas has other important resources. Its mineral resources are virtually unlimited. We have an annual mineral production valued five times greater than that of Alaska. We outrank the famous mineral states of the Rocky Mountains in the value of mineral produced. We exceed 39 out of the other 47 states in annual mineral production.

"Moreover, our petroleum production in Kansas exceeds that of 43 states.

"In 1942 Kansas produced 96,379,000 barrels of oil. As of January 1, 1943, a total of 20,551 wells were producing in the state and the estimated reserves were 396,319,000 barrels.

"Kansas exceeded 43 states in the production of petroleum for the 10 year period, 1932-1941, with an average annual production of 57,735,400 barrels. Nineteen refineries are operating within the state.

"Petroleum and natural gas in commercial quantities are produced in 62 of the 105 counties. Discoveries of new deposits have continued rapidly during the last decade.

"Kansas exceeded 41 states in the production of natural gas for the 10 year period, 1931-1940. The largest known gas field in the world is located in southwestern Kansas."

Kansas also produces coal, lead, zinc; has immense reserves of salt, and miscellaneous other minerals.

Out of many newspaper clippings concerning the activities of this Commission, all of which are good, we have selected two and quote them below:

"INDUSTRY HELPS ALL"

Winfield Courier, March 24, 1944

The El Dorado Times and the Hays Daily News have been conducting an editorial debate over the value of the Kansas Industrial Commission as an agency to promote the economic welfare of the state.

The News takes exception to the activities of any tax supporting agency working for industrial development in Kansas. Since agriculture is the major source of wealth, income and taxes in the state, tax money should not be expended to further manufacturing in Kansas, the News contends. Such a use of the farmer's tax money is a misuse of public funds, the Hays editor insists.



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Referring to the commission the News says, "It was conceived in party commitments, baptized in political patronage, and now, like the New Deal, is nursed at the taxpayers' breasts."

We do not question The News in its charge that the commission was conceived in party commitments. But we know of scores of vital economic and political improvements that were conceived in the same sort of political atmosphere. Much American progress has been possible because of political party interest.

This appears to us to be a very inappropriate moment to question the need for industrial development in Kansas. If we don't want it here, there are dozens of states that do. We know from personal observation that one of our neighboring states would have welcomed the help of a commission comparable to the KIDC to help in bringing war industries to the state. That state had some industrial advantages over Kansas but was far behind in getting such industries.

The only suggestion or criticism we could make of the Kansas Industrial Development Commission would be to voice some doubt about the wisdom of removing R. H. Rhoads from Washington at this time. It is going to be even more important to keep industry in Kansas after the war than it was to get war plants. There is going to be a lot of postwar maneuvering at Washington long before the war ends and we need to know what that activity indicates if we are to be able to offer inducements to keep some of these plants.

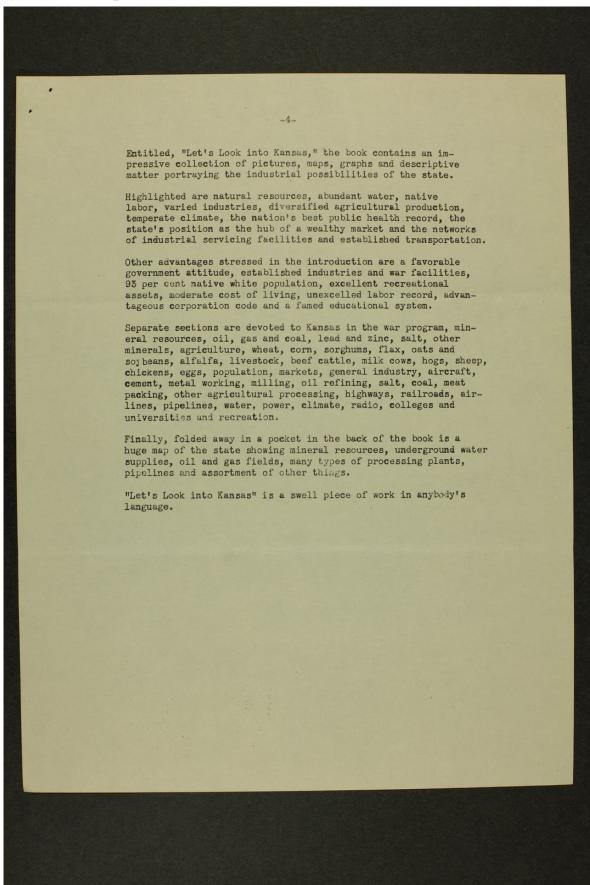
We have confidence that Richard Robbins, a western Kansas cattleman and chairman of the Commission, is interested in developing all of the state, not merely the eastern counties. We believe the rest of the Commission is made up of honest, progressive, sound-thinking men who want to see Kansas grow and develop. We want them to continue their efforts to bring greater economic balance to the state. We want to join with the El Dorado Times in commending what has been done to date.

"A CLASSY VIEW OF KANSAS"

Great Bend Tribune, March 25, 1944

Arkansas City Traveler: Probably the classiest piece of advertising ever given Kansas is the slick new brochure devoted to the state and its resources recently issued by the Kansas Industrial Development Commission.







Rolla Clymer correspondence

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE

April 1, 1944

STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF KANSAS

RAYMOND C. MOORE State Geologist and Director On leave, Quartermaster Corps, U. S. Army

JOHN C. FRYE Asst. State Geologist and Asst. Director

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

Dear Mr. Clymer:

Upon my recent return to the office I have received your letter of March 17 inquiring about certain aspects of the geology of Kansas and the Mid-West.

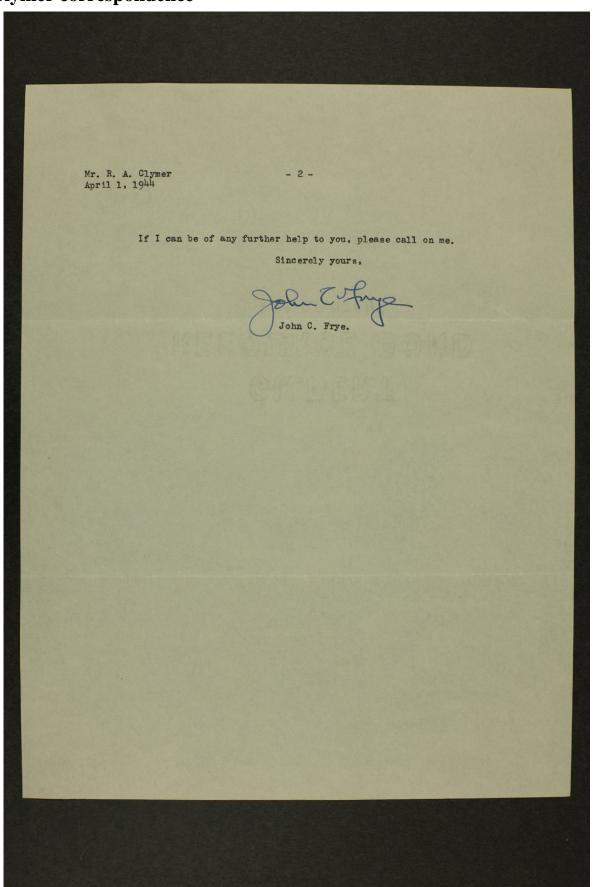
In answer to your first question, the glaciers did not cover all of Kansas, but extended only about as far south as the Kansas River valley and as far west as central Washington County. The advance of this ice sheet might be considered the last major event in the geologic development of the state. Nearly all of the important mineral-producing rocks of Kansas are of marine origin,—that is, they are deposits that were laid down in a shallow sea that alternately flooded and withdrew from this area. These marine rocks are all classified as belonging in the Paleozoic era, and represent a wide variety of materials ranging from limestone and dolomite to sandstone and redbeds. The Permian sea that you mention as having been referred to by oil geologists refers to the last major advance of the sea during Paleozoic time into the state. El Dorado is located in an area underlain by Permian rocks, and these same rocks extend far to the west. The Cherokee sea which you mentioned was a sea that covered much the same area as the Permian sea but at an earlier time. Considerable quantities of oil have been produced in Kansas from sandstones formed in the Cherokee sea.

Concerning your question about the similarity of the geology of the Mid-West, the Paleozoic rocks of Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Missouri have many features in common. Some of the coal beds are thicker in one part of the area than in others and sand contains oil one place and not in another, but for the most part they are similar types of rock. Parts of Arkansas are also similar to this region but other parts of that state are much more closely related to South Texas and the Gulf Coast region.

I realize that my answers have been very general and may not be of much help to you. I will be glad to be more specific on any of the points raised if you care for such information.

Under separate cover I am sending you several publications of the State Geological Survey that may supply more details, --namely, a report summarizing the mineral resources of Kansas, a report recently published on the subsurface geology of the Forest City Basin in Kansas, and a report which briefly summarizes the ground-water geology of the state. You might also be interested in securing for your library a copy of Dr. R. C. Moore's Textbook of Historical Geology. Dr. Moore, of course, has for many years been located in Kansas and many of the illustrations in his textbook are drawn from this state. His textbook is an excellent source reference on historical geology.







Rolla Clymer correspondence

REFER TO NO. NOPKC-hel

BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL NAVY DEPARTMENT

KANSAS CITY 6, MISSOURI

April 3, 1944

OPVICTORY

Dear Sir:

Reference:

Mr. R. A. Clymer, El Dorado, Kans.

Mr. Lawrence Porter KLINTWORTH

Applicant for commission, U.S. NAVAL RESERVE

In placing this important matter before you, it is sincerely regretted that a personal letter cannot be sent, but to do so would make it necessary to divert energy now focused on other wartime duties.

The conscientious thought given your reply to this request may affect the welfare and safety of many men, as the man about whom we are writing may eventually be in a position of command. Therefore, the requested information is of more than usual significance.

Please tell us in detail what you can about this applicant. For your convenience we have enclosed a form which covers the essential items upon which information is desired. It would contribute to our appraisal of the applicant if you would place your answers below the questions on the enclosed sheet.

A return envelope is enclosed. Your reply will be kept in strictest confidence and will have an importent bearing on the final decision. Please accept our thanks for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Lieutenant, USNR



