

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Section 763, Pages 22861 - 22890

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

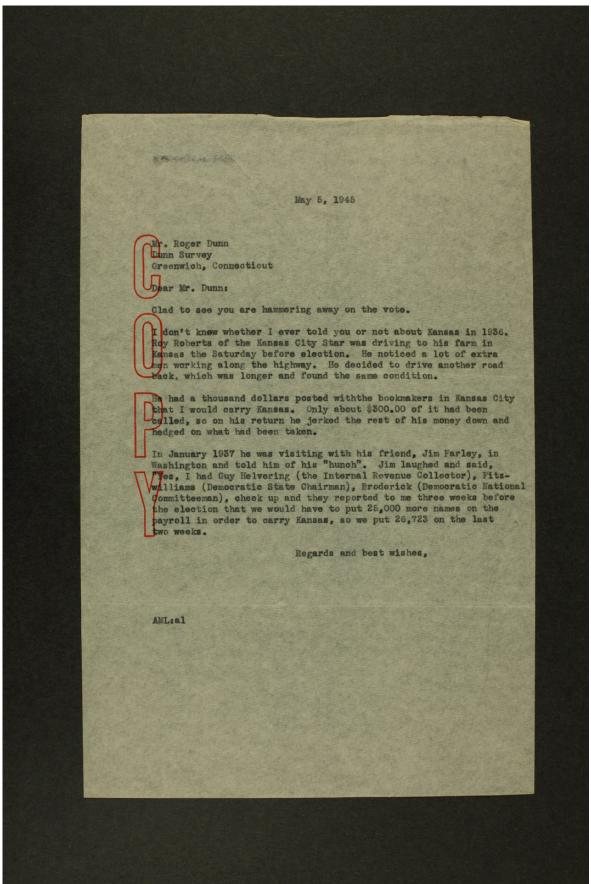
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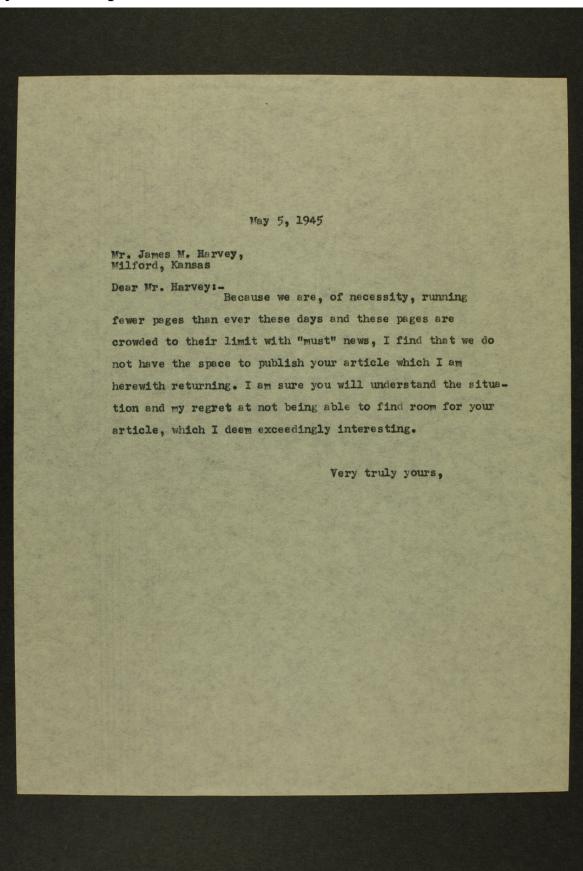
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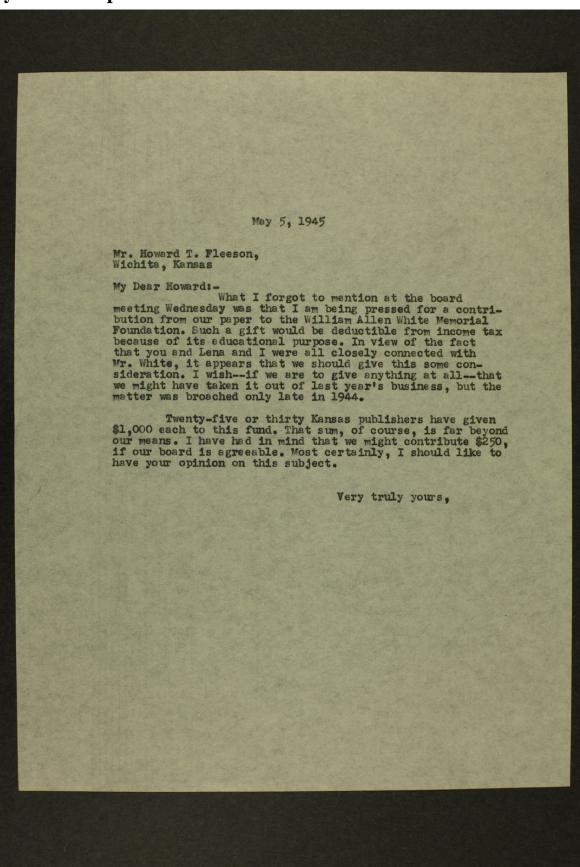




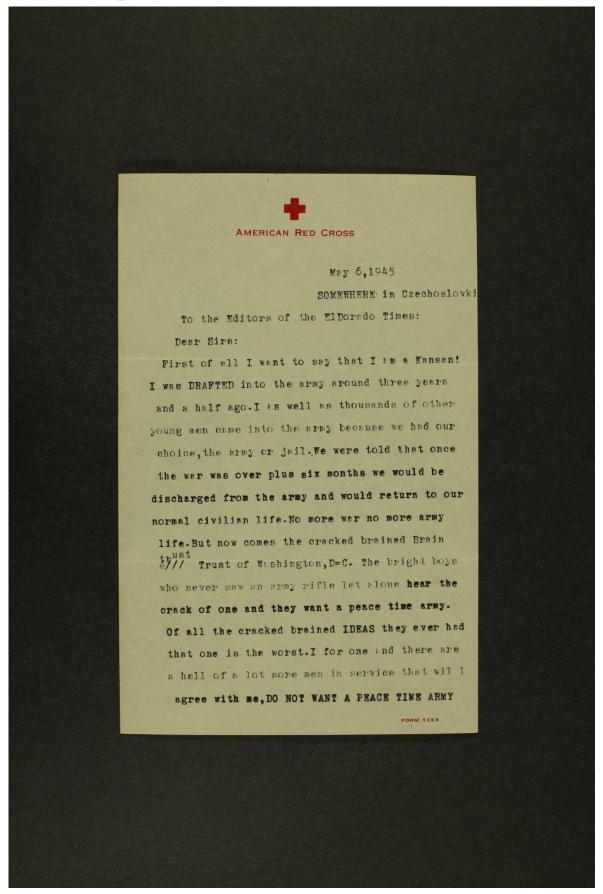




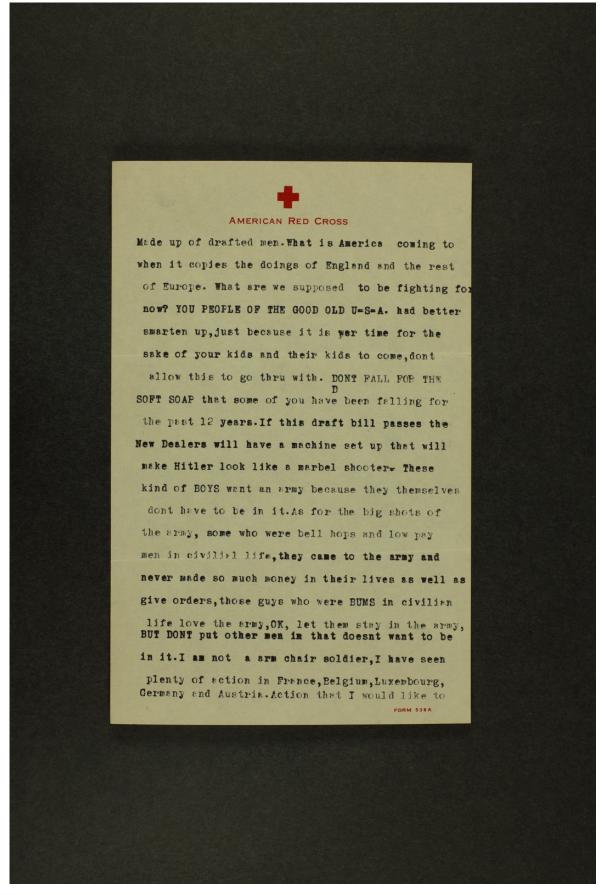




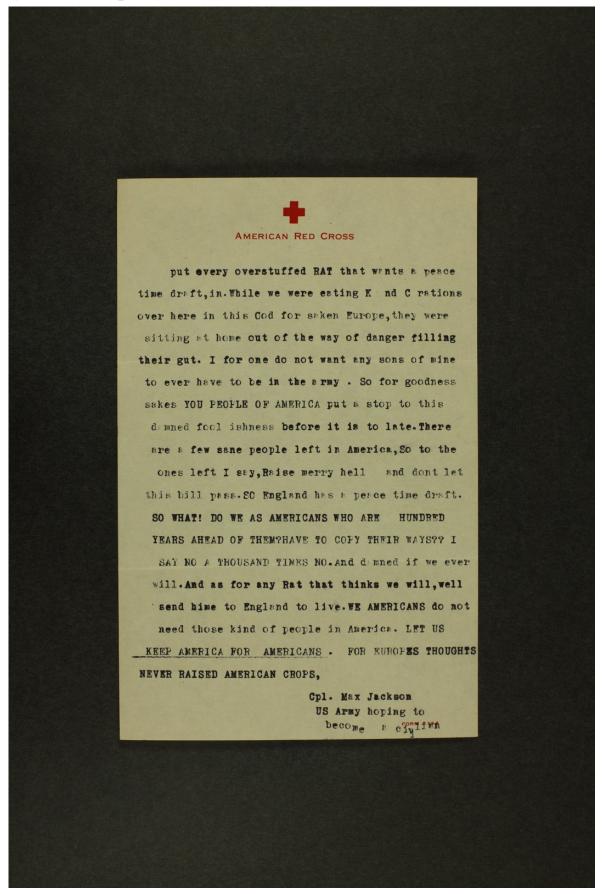




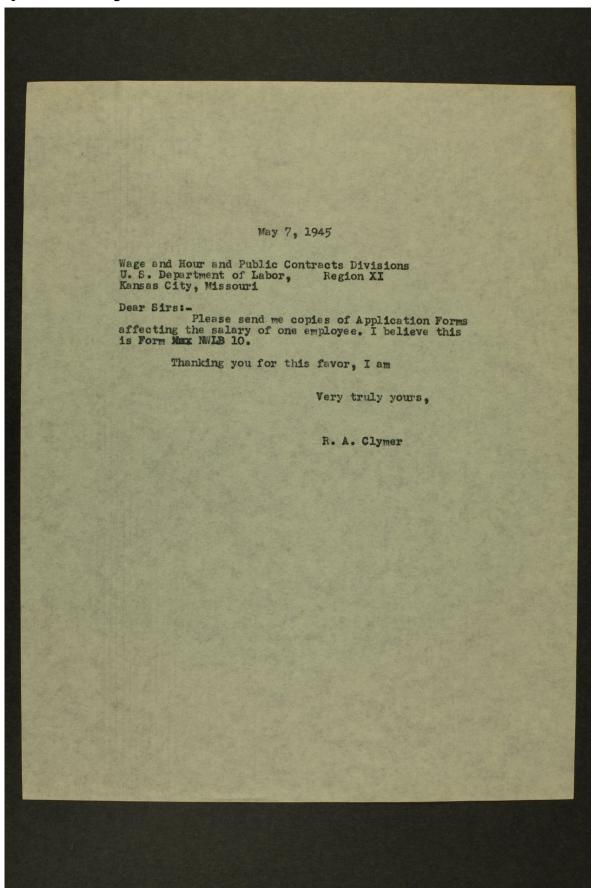




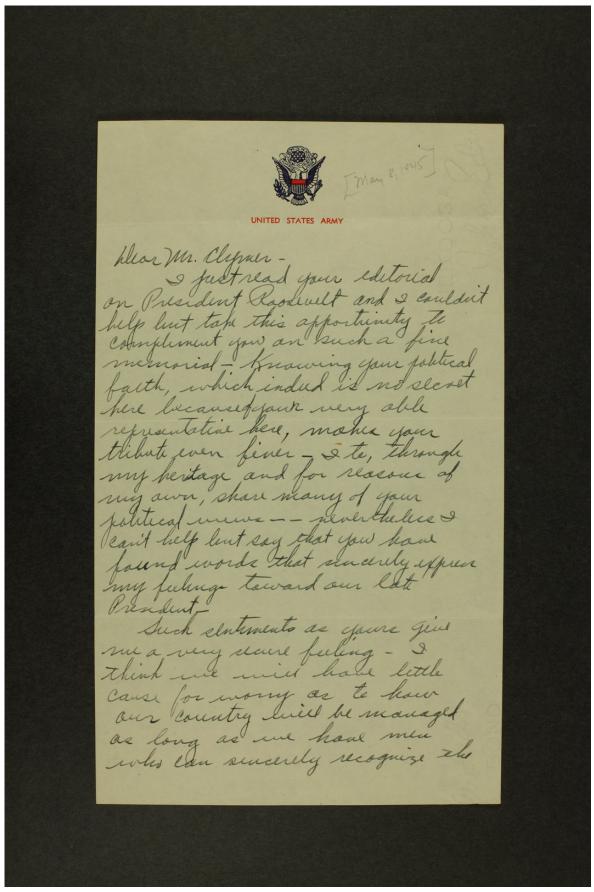




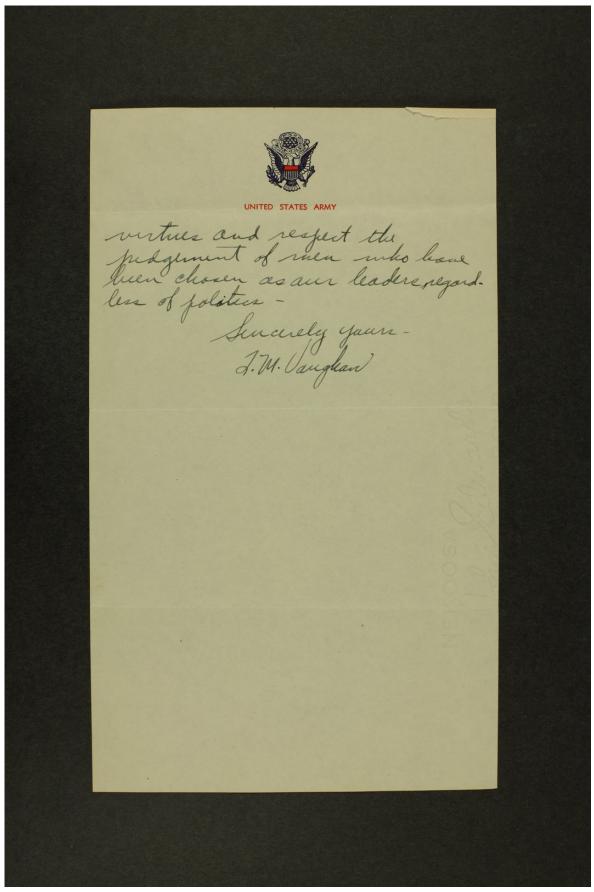
















Rolla Clymer correspondence

LAW OFFICES OF BROOKS & FLEESON WICHITA, KANSAS May 9, 1945. Mr. R. A. Clymer, c/o Times Publishing Company, El Dorado, Kansas. Dear Rolla: I am in receipt of your letter of May 5. Personally, I am wholly in accord with your view that some contribution should be made by the paper to the William Allen White Memorial Foundation. The question in my mind is as to the amount of the gift. Based on your statement that the paper is not making money for the year 1945, the question of whether or not this is deductible is beside the issue. If we are making money, then we could afford to be liberal. Personally, I feel that any contribution which we make should be based on our capacity to give, with consideration being given to what other papers of comparable size give, also bearing in mind the fact that El Dorado was the birthplace of Mr. White and the El Dorado Times was very dear to him. Any amount that you think is proper under all the circumstances is satisfactory to me.

Very truly yours,

HTF/h

Howard & Mush



Rolla Clymer correspondence

May 9, 1945

Mr. Merle Thorpe New York City

My Dear Merle:Major Strickler, our mutual friend, has
been telling me about some of the case histories you
have prepared concerning the experiences of certain
Kansas industries. I feel certain that this material
might be useful in the industrial development program
which is now being carried on in Kansas. For three years,
I was director of the Kansas Industrial Development
Commission but am no longer actively connected with that
agency. Nevertheless, if you wish to communicate with
the present commission and its director, I shall be happy
to serve as an intermediary.

If you will please outline to me, the suggestions you have for the employment of this material I shall take up the matter with the proper officials. I think of you often--certainly ever time I see a copy of that excellent "Service" magazine--and always hold you in grateful memory for the inspiration you were to me in my younger days.

Sincerely your friend,



Rolla Clymer correspondence

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
STAR BUILDING
KANSAS CITY 8, MO.

May 10, 1945

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

Dear Mr. Clymer:

Doubtless you are aware that we have been in correspondence fairly regularly for the past year with Mr. Feder about the inadequacies of the 500 word telegraph report about which he constantly complains, and with more than a little justification.

The complaints in general are fourfold:

- 1. Slow Western Union delivery.
- 2. Typographical errors by Western Union that make deciphering of the copy difficult and sometimes impossible.
- 3. Poor choice occasionally by the relay editors here in the copy which gives you what appears to be a rehash of morning paper copy, and sometimes actually is that--particularly on the war stories based on communiques issued once daily.
- 4. Mistakes now and then by the procession of filing editors I have had to use in the war's upheaval of my staff which necessitates use frequently of editors not completely seasoned at the tasks they are set to do

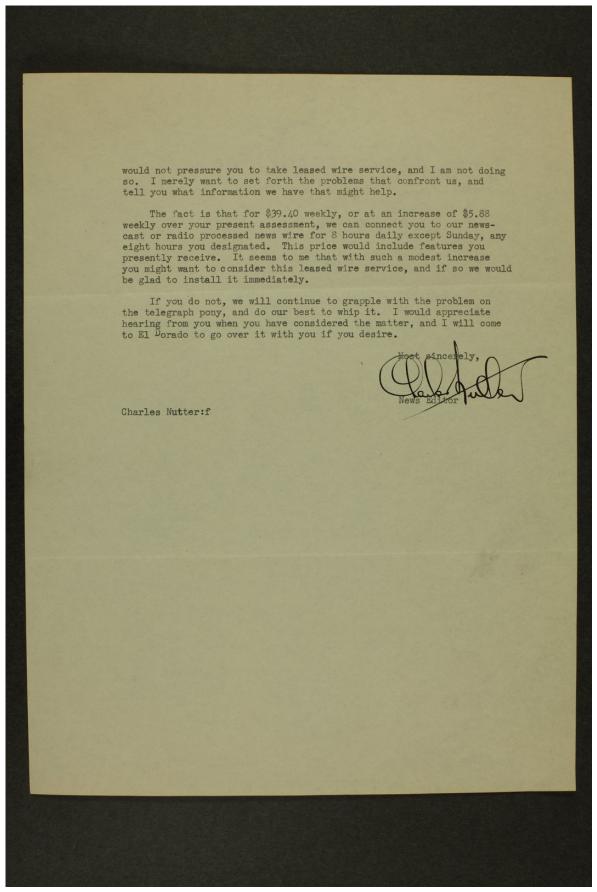
The first two causes of complaint have been pursued very vigorously and on repeated occasions by me here with Western Union. I have come to the conclusion that very little can be done to correct either until the war ends, and more competent help is abailable by Western Union. I am sure the company wants and has earnestly tried to correct both the delays and errors, but can do little with the class of help now available.

The third complaint is one that is somewhat difficult to correct because in numerous theaters of war there is issued only one communique daily, and this often late in the afternoon. If we knew that all papers the next afternoon would accept the morning paper version of the story, we could pass it. But often the news is still one of the big stories for the pm report, and we must use it, even though it seems to duplicate closely the morning paper story.

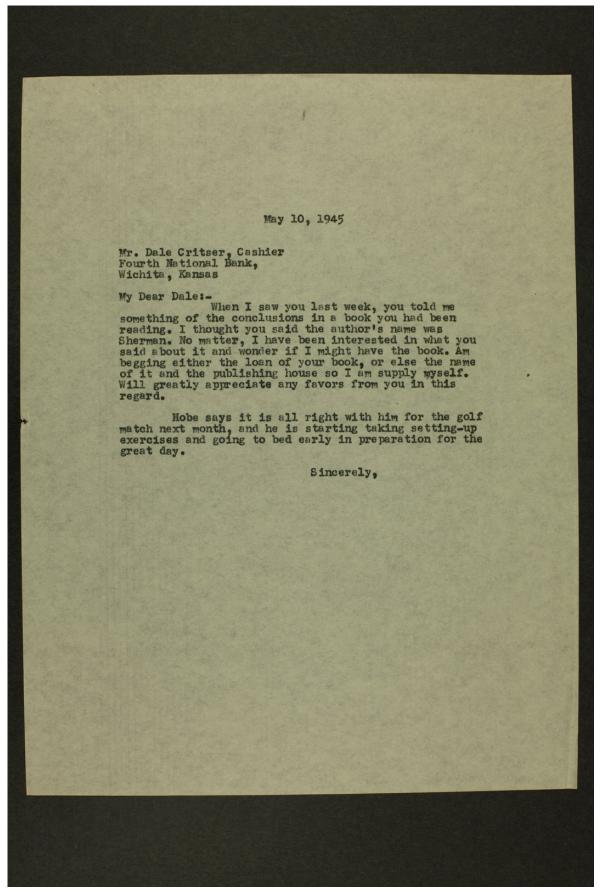
The fourth cause of complaint is our own fault, and I have worked hard and long on stopping these mistakes. Progress has been made, but not enough. And not enough will be made until the war is over, and we get some of our older heads back. We are using help today that we would not consider in normal times.

All of this brings up a matter I want to suggest to you as an alternative, and alternative proposition only. I told you some months ago I











Rolla Clymer correspondence

RICHARD W. ROBBINS GREENSBURG, KANSAS

May 11, 1945

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

Dear Rolla:

I was glad to get your recent notes.

I have read over with interest the pamphlet on the postwar Medical Center at El Dorado.

This is a fine endeavor and I have no doubt you feel keenly the responsibility for its continued success. You could probably expand the work if you wish. I will be glad to hear more about this the next time we are together.

I appreciate your friendly comments on my relations with Art Strobel, of the Santa Fe. I like Art very much personally and, aside from that, I am very much interested in his department. No other railroad in the country has anything to compare with it.

It just occurs to me that a human interest story could be built around Art's department. The general public probably has no conception of the close inspection the Santa Fe gives the watches which its employees use and also the thousands of clocks owned by the railroad.

I gather that you are well acquainted with Art and have probably been through his department there at Topeka. If not, you would find such a trip informative and interesting.

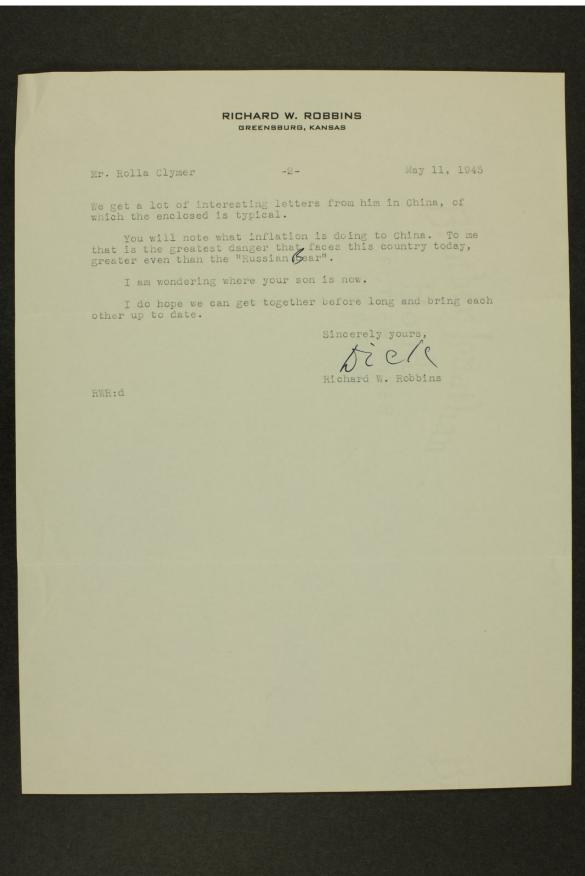
Owing to a funeral, I will be unable to attend the meeting of the KIDC in Lawrence on Monday. I am wondering if you will be there.

I thought Bill Long's V-E Day release excellent. I noticed that a good many Kansas papers carried it.

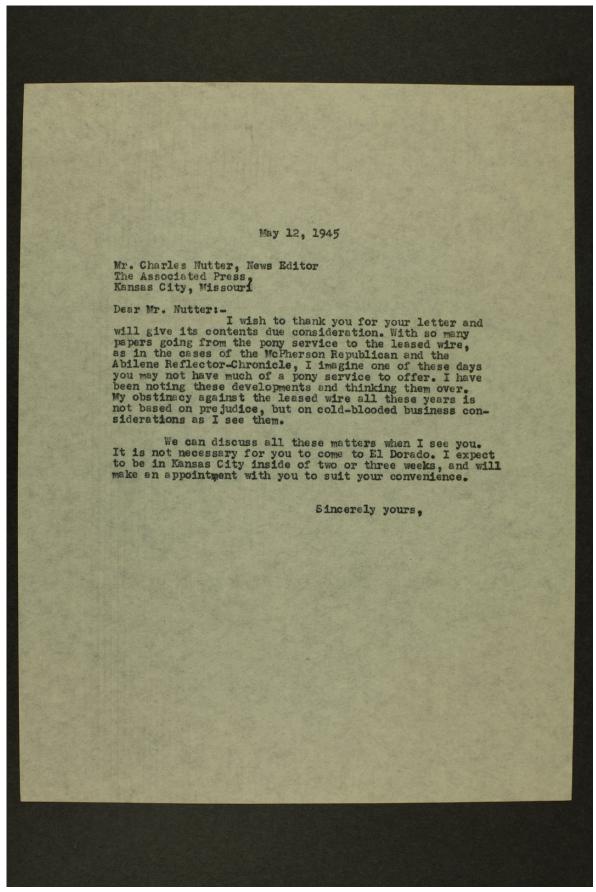
I know, like everyone else, how relieved you are that V-E Day has arrived. We have plenty of problems ahead of us, but if we can get the killing stopped we can work out the peacetime problems more calmly.

My sister's second son, Evan Koger, is a Lieutenant in the Strategic Services, which is a kind of super-spy outfit, in China. He got the job because he is rather handy with languages.

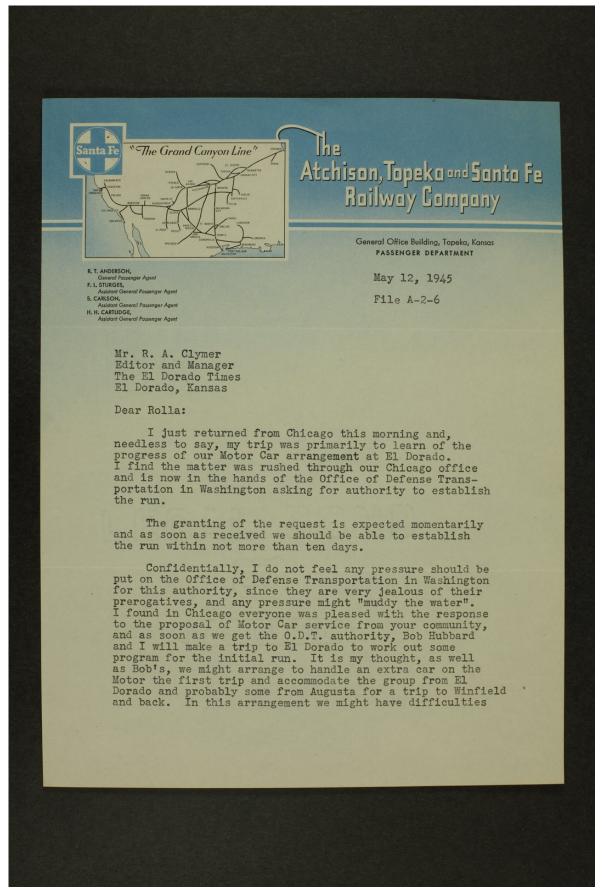




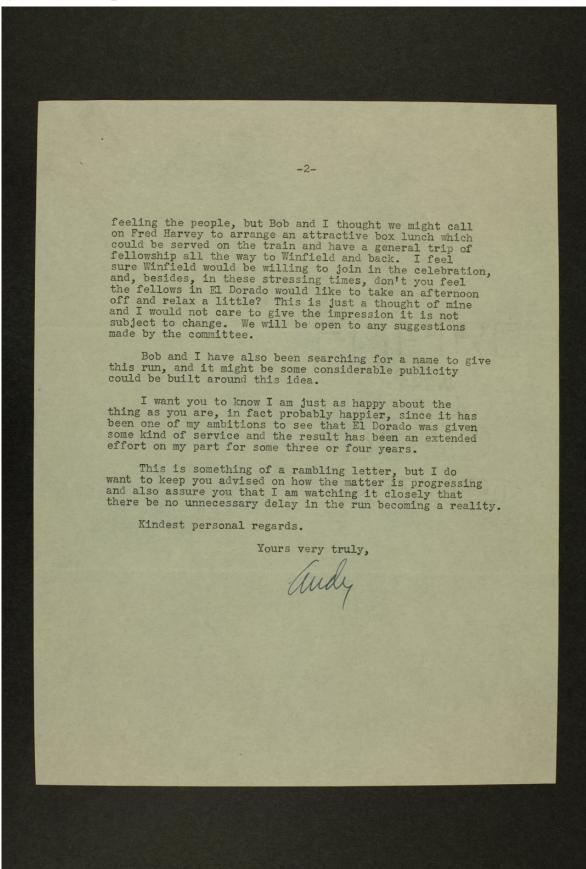














Rolla Clymer correspondence

May 14, 1945

Mr. R. T. Anderson, General Passenger Agent, A. T. & S. F. Railway Company, Topeka, Kansas

My. Dear Andy:
I greatly appreciated your good letter
whiche came yesterday. I think I understand full well
the necessity of not rushing ODT on the matter of granting authority for the establishment of our new motor car
service. Frankly, I have been apprehensive all the way
that the ODT might be our stumbling block. Sincerely I
hope that nothing happens from that source.

I will be looking for you and Bob Hubbard to get down this week to complete final arrangements after the way has been cleared for starting the motor car's operation. In general, I highly approve of the plans you have made for taking a bunch of us to Winfield and back. Think it would be a fine touch. I also believe that we should arrange some sort of a ceremony here, with a brief speech or two to indicate the gratitude of this community over the Santa Fe's interest and helpfulness in its plight.

I ran a paragraph in my column the other day-facetious, of course-suggesting that we might call the motor car "the missing link." But you will want a better name for so sturdy and fine a servent of us all. I think we can conjure up a more apt and pleasing one, and I may have a try at it myself.

We all know how faithfully you have tried to give us a lift here, and are deeply grateful for your final success. I have noted several editorials of favorable comment about this situation in other papers over the state, and have copied them. One from the Pittsburg Headlight will appear tomorrow. The only discordant note from this section is at Douglass. Those people there think their mail service will be greatly disrupted by the new arrangements and are setting up a howl. They really let it out in the Douglass Tribune last week.

Thanks again for writing me. I shall now be looking forward to the final word, and also to seeing you and Bob when you make it this way.

Sincerely your friend,



Rolla Clymer correspondence

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
STAR BUILDING
KANSAS CITY 8, MO.

May 14, 1945

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

Dear Mr. Clymer:

I will be delighted to see you in Kansas City within the next two or three weeks, and if you will let me know when you expect to be here I will make sure that I am on hand. I would appreciate a few days notice if possible as I have been doing a little travel.

I wish you would have lunch or dinner with me, and we will go over the whole matter thoroughly.

Before then, however, I want to tell you that it is not my hope or plan to liquidate or curtail the Kansas pony service. There are at least a half dozen Kansas members who will not want, nor need in the conceivably near future, anything more than they are getting-a 500-word telegraph report. In fact, you may not if we had anything like normal facilities today to serve you, and I mean transportation facilities. We will not curtail the telegraph pony service so long as we have members who want that report. The McPherson and Abilene members wanted the switchover and were ready for it. Both financed the increase by raising some rates which had been left unraised too long, and without complaint.

I am looking forward to seeing you. And meantime we will continue to give you the best report possible. The strain has eased somewhat, and there certainly is less news this week than last.

Charles Nutter:f



Rolla Clymer correspondence



Sgt. T. M. Vaughn c/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

My Dear Sergeant Vaughn: -

I was delighted to have your letter, and am pleased over your expressed appreciation of my editorial on the occasion of the death of the late President. It surprises me that any comment of mine should be read in such far-off spots—and I must conclude pridefully that the circulation of The Times is spreading. While I was violently opposed to the methods and policies of the late executive, I tried to have some understanding of his purposes, and his impact on our generation. It was this I endeavored to express in the article to which you have so kindly referred. Some of my Democratic friends have told me they thought I must have gagged while writing it. I assure them and you that this is gagged while writing it. I assure them and you that this is not so; when I sat down to the typewriter that morning, the "piece" fairly wrote itself.

Whatever the considerations as to that matter, I am happy that something occurred to induce you to write to meand now I am not going to be satisfied until I have a personal acquaintance with you. We are all going to hope that this bitter war with Japan will be over some day, even as the one with a beastly Germany has come to an end. And when you are once back in the states, and preparing to get back to your niche in civilian life, I am going to insist that you come to El Dorado for a few days and frolic a bit with the comparat "Corporal" Dave's friends—and mine. I assure you we will provide the best in hospitality that can be offered.

I am glad to have this touch with one of Dave's buddies, and hope to have more of it with you and some of the others in his crowd. I trust, with your superior rank and influence, you will be able to keep that obstreperous young man under proper control. When he first came home, after 13 months in the service, he was six feet tall, weighed about 190 pounds, and looked as if he thought he could whip ME. Well, maybe so in some respects—but not on the golf course. I intend to keep his nose in the dirt there.

If you will be so kind, I wish you would tell him that I carried out all arrangements he requested for a proper remembrance to his mother yesterday—and everything went off well. I will write him soon.

Again assuring you of my gratitude for your letter and insisting that you will some day be a guest in our home, I am Sincerely.



THE EL DORADO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EL DORADO, KANSAS
Mr. Clymen;-
Hanks again for your senece Jusonal + newspoper Dupport.
you that Bak Hape, Bong bracky, Betty Hicks & Bake Freeze are giving
a July whibition in Ingela on
Jone 3rd & tickets weil he swailsale from now on. Fallowing the gary Mouth Bott Bing wies wire. crack a
will go to the Slawner lo. War memorial
Fund & idmission is 1.50. This information is Caken Toyn that Grew the Lapsha



