

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Section 815, Pages 24421 - 24450

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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Rolla Clymer correspondence

THE KANSAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

A Non-Profit Trade Association Founded in 1893, Representing 95% of All Kansas Newspapers

J. Howard Rusco, Secretary-Manager

701 Jackson St., Topeka

January 28, 1947

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

Dear Rolla:

I didn't have the opportunity of seeing you after your part on the Wichita program to tell you what a fine job you did in preparing and presenting the memorials. You did it in a masterful way and I heard others expressing the same opinion.

I am looking this far ahead to the meeting next January in Topeka for this particular part of the program, at least, and ask if you will serve as memorials chairman for me then.

Perhaps it is imposing on you to serve again, but if you agree to do so, I will promise earlier cooperation from the secretary's office in collecting data, and we will hope there will not be as long a list of departed ones to memorialize.

I'll be most grateful if I can set you down for this same place on the program next January.

Cordially yours,

Geo. W. Marble
Geo. W. Marble



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Holton Recorder
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Marion Record-Review



Reid Editorial Service
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

January 28, 1947

Editor
The Times
Eldorado, Kansas

Dear Sir:

Reid Editorials, smooth-flowing and objective pieces of the right length, are informative and interpretative and never strident except when the innovation is made unavoidable by a dire catastrophe, such as the end of the world. This is an infrequent occurrence.

In some newspapers Reid Editorials are the editorial page. In others they complement the editor's daily grist and aid in achieving completeness of editorial coverage.

Written on topics that are of interest at the moment, they add up to a lively daily release--today's is enclosed--that is highly praised by editors from Helena to Beaumont, and points East and West.

To learn more about contents, rates and territory, write us a letter.

Yours very truly,

REID EDITORIAL SERVICE


Editor

Arthur Reid:S



The **ELDORADO REFINING Co.**

ESTABLISHED 1916
Refiners and Marketers of Petroleum
ELDORADO, KANSAS

SALES DEPARTMENT
C. W. RICE, MANAGER

January 29, 1947

Mr. R. A. Clymer, Chairman
Industrial Advisory Committee
c/o El Dorado Times
El Dorado, Kansas

My friend Rolla:

With reference to the meeting of your Committee on January 9, and the minutes of the same, which were presented to the City Commission for approval of the payment of the bill for \$317.06 this matter was discussed in your office recently, and it was explained to you that the City Commission felt that some of the charges were questionable, probably for the lack of detail in presenting them. The City Commission felt that we should discuss some of these items with your Committee before paying the bill, and also have a discussion regarding the procedure for handling these matters and what items should be paid in the future.

The City Commission will be glad to discuss this matter with you when it is convenient with your Committee.

Thanking you for your services, I am

Yours very truly,

Sales Manager

CWR/hpm

cc: H. L. Remsberg
W. L. Lappan
J. C. Truman
T. A. Helling



Rolla Clymer correspondence

January 29, 1947

Mr. George W. Marble,
Fort Scott, Kansas

My Dear Watson:-

I want to thank you for your kind letter. I cannot believe I was as good as you say I was at Wichita, but nevertheless your words made me happy. If you want me for the memorials post at the meeting again next year, I shall be willing to serve. Of course, I would like to have the information from the secretary's office sooner than I did on this occasion but I shall also help myself to greater extent. As deaths occur this year in our editorial family, I intend to write to relatives for newspaper and other material and keep my own file in that way. I will, however, expect to cooperate closely with the secretary's office in order that no omissions occur.

I am sure the affairs of the Kansas Press Association are going to be in capable hands under your direction, and look forward confidently to its progress in 1947. I am glad to help you in any way I can, which is one reason that I am sending promptly my acceptance to your request.

With constant best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

1616 Anthony Street
Columbia, Missouri
January 29, 1947

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

Dear Mr. Clymer:

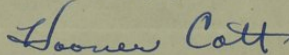
Thank you for your answer to my original application letter. I received it this evening. Since the telegram and the letter I sent you yesterday will let you know that I am definitely interested in the job, I concluded that it would be unnecessary for me to put you to the expense of a telephone call.

Final examinations begin for me tomorrow and it would be virtually impossible for me to leave Columbia before finals are finished next Wednesday, February 5th. My plans are to leave Columbia as soon as possible after the close of school, so I believe I could see you in El Dorado on the 7th or 8th.

I am very sorry that I cannot meet you immediately, but your letter reached me at a rather difficult time. I shall appreciate your letting me know if the above conditions are satisfactory with you.

I am very much interested in your proposition, and I hope we can reach an agreement.

Very truly yours,



Hoover Cott



Rolla Clymer correspondence

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

1337 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NORTHWEST • WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

TELEPHONE: ADAMS 9215



WILLIAM C. MURPHY, JR.
PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

Jan. 29 (Kansas Day)

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

Dear Rolla:

It was good to see you again at Topeka and note how little damage these past 12 years have done. I regret that we had no opportunity for a gabfest, but even so it was considerably more to me than the toots of passing trains. Especially those kind remarks you made in the lobby of the Jayhawk. You over-estimate me, sir---but go ahead, I love it.

And further, if the Governor already has not written you about the editorial (DEDICATED TO HIS TASK) in the Times of Jan. 16, which he has just enclosed to me, he should have done so because he is deeply grateful.

Apart from this and also the hard-won fact that The Times is generally considered the editorial spokesman for Kansas, I had other reasons for wanting to talk to you. The vacancy in the Industrial Development Commission is a possibility for me, I think, and I would have appreciated your judgment and experience. I do not yet know whether to seek it or play out the string here till '48. If you care to write, I would be grateful---even though in the meantime some impulse might previously impel me to a decision. But I'm pretty homesick.

My regards to the worthy Bill Feder. Understand Klintworth went to The Gazette and is doing all right.

And again thanks for your friendliness and cordiality to this prodigal.

Sincerely,

Zach.

Zach. Taylor



BANK OF WHITEWATER
J.D. JOSEPH, PRESIDENT
A. J. NIGG, CASHIER
WHITEWATER, KANS.

Jan 29-1947

*R. A. Clymer
El Dorado*

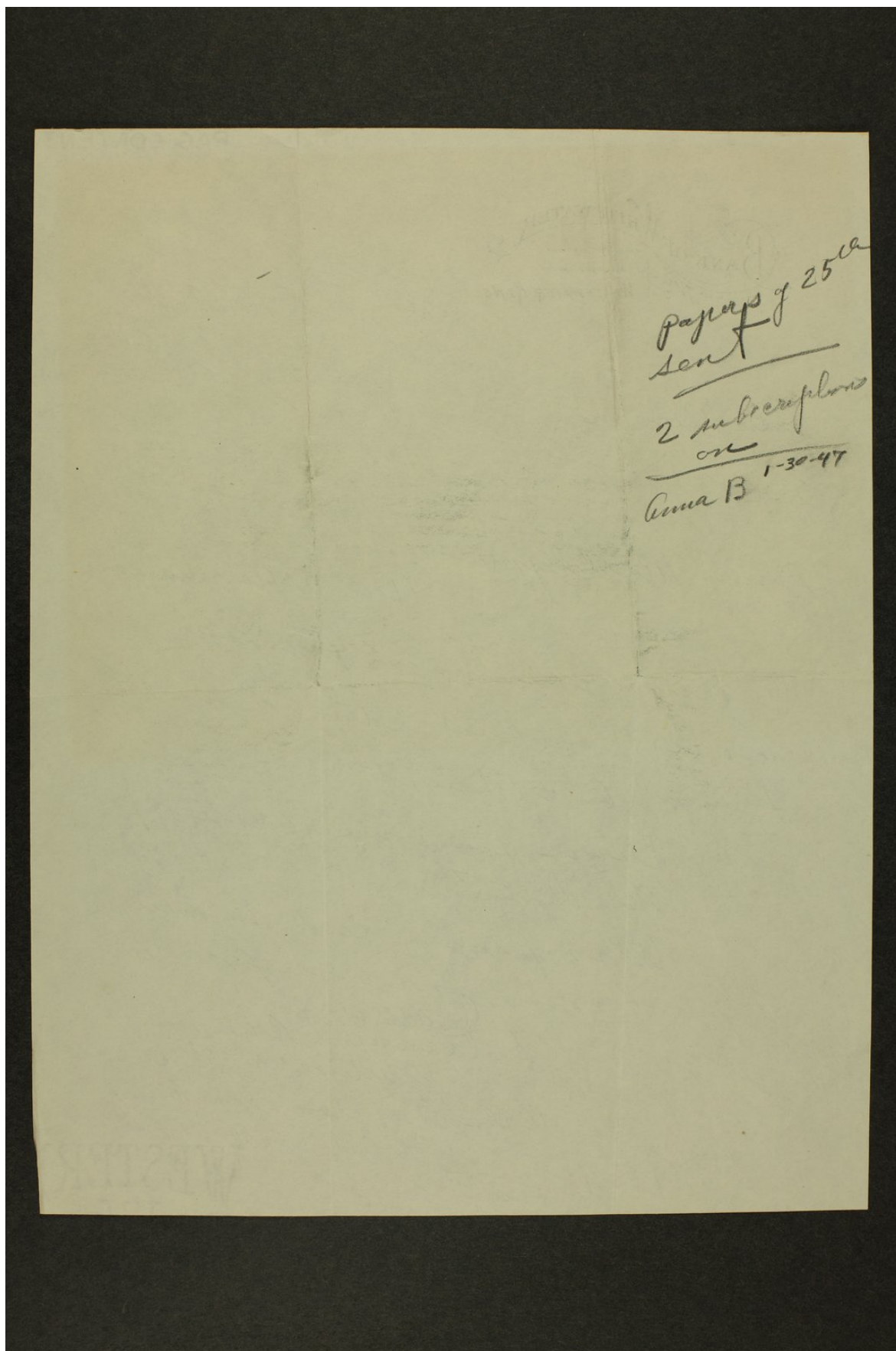
*Dear Mr Clymer: Am wholly unable
to thank you enough for your
more than kind editorial in the
Times the 25th inst.*

*Please send me 10 copies of
the Daily Times of 1-25-47.
Also please send the Daily
Times for one year to*

*Ed Claassen R.F.D. 1
Whitewater Kans*

*Orlando Claassen R.F.D. 1
Whitewater 16*

*Kind enclosed
11.00 for same
Truly J. D. Joseph*



Rolla Clymer correspondence

January 29, 1947

Mr. Frank Hall,
Hill City, Kansas

My Dear Frank:-

You surely laid it on with a trowel and I can't possibly believe half of what you said but, dear boy, you will never know how much I appreciated your kind letter. It warmed me all over--and I thank you more than I can tell. Whatever kind of a job I did on that recent occasion really does not matter; it is your fine friendship that counts with me and I feel honestly I have that. So thank you sincerely for your kindness that has made me happy.

George Marble has written me asking me to do the same chore next year, and I suppose I shall say yes. But if I keep up the biznai, I am sure to carry my pitcher to the well once too often. Yet I can now bask in the light of your approval--and, gosh, how I like it.

Bill Feder, who has been our city editor for more than 26 years, collapsed suddenly Monday with a paralytic attack--and we are in a difficult hole. I think you can imagine our present problems, which will explain why I cannot write more at this time.

At any rate, I thank you deeply--and promise that I shall never more go through Hill City without stopping to see you.

Sincerely,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

TELEGRAM

El Dorado, Kansas
January 30, 1947

Hoover Cott
1616 Anthony Street
Columbia, Missouri

Definitely interested in you will notify you further
next week.

R. A. Clymer
The Times

Prepay and charge The Times



THE KANSAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

A Non-Profit Trade Association Founded in 1893, Representing 95% of All Kansas Newspapers

J. Howard Rusco, Secretary-Manager

701 Jackson St., Topeka

January 31, 1947



R. A. Clymer,
Eldorado Times,
Eldorado, Kansas

Dear Rolla:

In going through my records of the annual meeting in Wichita, I do not find a copy of the memorials which you delivered. If you got away with these, could you send me a copy at your earliest convenience, please?

Aside from the fact that we were instructed to file these memorials with the State Historical Society, we have had several requests for copies which I would like to fulfill.

Incidentally, may I remark the services which you conducted were as beautiful as any as I have ever heard? ~~It is~~ ^{this is} ~~sets~~ an example of the kind of work you do when you are rushed, we'll make it a point never to give you more than 24 hours notice in the future.

With best personal regards, I am

Very truly,

Howard
Secretary-Manager.

JHR:jc

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SIXTH DISTRICT
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WILL T. BECK
Holton Recorder
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
WHARTON HOCH
Marion Record-Review

Rolla Clymer correspondence

January 31, 1947

Mr. Hoover Cott
Columbia, Missouri

Dear Mr. Cott:-

Our messages lately have crossed each other, but I am writing you now so that we may have something of an understanding--especially since the receipt of your special delivery letter this morning. The job I have open now is for a reporter. It was altogether necessary that I secure the services of a city editor--and I have been able to do so, at least temporarily. Now I want to back him up with a competent young man, who is not afraid to work and who will be reliable. I think we can work out something here to your satisfaction--if you want to be that reporter--after we have had a conversation and have discussed all the details.

I am entirely willing to have you finish up your affairs in Columbia, and come to see me about the 7th or 8th. I will make arrangements to hold this job open until that time, for I am attracted by your interest and the qualifications you have cited. In other words, you will have the first crack at the reporting job and if you make good at it, which I believe you will, I will not hold you down. It may be, of course, that one of these days I can offer you a better post. The sudden and serious illness of our former city editor has changed our situation materially and we will simply have to work it out slowly.

This is as much as I can tell you, in the stress of a busy day. I will expect you about a week from now, and if anything unexpected should happen will notify you in the meantime. I wish you would write me again so that the matter will be clear on both sides.

Very truly yours,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

January 31, 1947

Mr. Hoover Cott
Columbia, Missouri

Dear Mr. Cott:-

Our messages lately have crossed each other, but I am writing to you today so we may have something of an understanding. The job I have here will be for a reporter. I have been able to secure the services temporarily of a city editor. I would like to back him up with a competent young man, who is not afraid to work and who will be reliable. I would say the chances for advancement are good. It has always been my policy here that

Very truly,
Rolla Clymer



Rolla Clymer correspondence

BUDGET, 1947

Salaries	\$3,175.00 ✓
Books	2,000.00 ✓
Periodicals	150.00 ✓
Binding	65.00 ✓
Supplies	150.00 ✓
Miscellaneous	100.00 ✓ <i>audit - con.</i>
Janitor's Salary	540.00 ✓
Janitor's Supplies	25.00 ✓
Heat	150.00 ✓
Light	300.00 ✓
Telephone	78.00 ✓
Water	12.00 ✓
Building & Grounds	2,000.00 ✓
Equipment	200.00 ✓
Insurance	55.00 ✓

\$9,000.00

Taxes	\$6,000.00 ✓
Unencumbered Bal.	3,000.00 ✓
	<u>\$9,000.00</u>

Rolla Clymer correspondence

February 1, 1947

Mr. Howard Rusco, Secretary-Manager
Kansas Press Association
Topeka, Kansas

My Dear Howard:-

Thanks for your kind words. I had only one copy of the stuff I used for the memorial services at the Wichita meeting, and am sending it under separate cover, "as is." I would whip this into better shape if I had the time, but Bill Feder, our long-time city editor went down suddenly under a stroke or paralytic attack last Monday--and left us in a heck of a hole. I think you can well understand our present predicament. I truly hope the copy in the form in which I am thus forced to send it will be suitable for your uses. As I said before, it is all that I have.

Sincerely,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

February 1, 1947

Mr. A. George Stewart
Columbia, Missouri

My Dear George:-

I was greatly pleased to receive your letter this week and to learn your present whereabouts. I was surprised about the grocery business part of it, but I think I can see that you have located yourself in such way you can give your daughter a higher education--and I feel you have acted most worthily in this respect.

We have been going along here about the same until Monday of this week when Bill Feder, who has been our tireless city editor for over 26 years, suddenly collapsed at his work with a stroke or paralytic attack. He has recovered to some extent at the hospital and we hope that one day he may be able to get back with us. That will doubtless take a long time, and in the meanwhile we have been in considerable of a mess. I have made temporary arrangements for handling the news end of the paper but probably will require several weeks or months before everything is in something like the old-time order. The sense of Bill's loss has hit each one of us a personal blow, as I am sure it will do you.

We all remember with the greatest of pleasure the three months you were connected with our paper, and greatly wish that we might have kept you here. If you ever decide to go back into a pressroom, I trust you will keep your promise and let us on The Times know first about it. I am sure I would go to a great deal of trouble to make room for you in your organization.

I hope your present venture will continue to turn out well, and I feel certain it will with you pushing it. Please remember me kindly to Mrs. Stewart and your daughter.

With the warmest of personal regards, I am
as always,

Sincerely,



Rolla Clymer correspondence

February 1, 1947

Mr. Zach. Taylor
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Zach:-

I was greatly pleased to hear from you--and can't write much now because we are still in a jam here on account of Bill Feder's illness. Bill went down like an ox Monday under a stroke, or paralytic attack, and is in the hospital where he is reported slowly improving. His sudden removal left us in a dreadful jam, but we are perfecting arrangements to carry on. Bill's loss is a heavy one, as you can well imagine, both because of what he meant to the paper as well as in a deeply personal way.

Certain members of the Industrial Commission have spoken to me about you as the possible director of that agency. I have conveyed my impressions to them and, of course, you may well be sure that these were favorable. I know nothing of your present setup and cannot advise you as to the wisdom of retaining that. I do know that the directorship of the Commission would afford you an excellent opportunity to locate yourself in the public eye in Kansas. A great job is there awaiting the touch of the right man. It constitutes a real challenge, which I assume you feel. Kansas has a bright chance to go places industrially; the groundwork has already been laid. If you are offered this post, I firmly believe you have the opportunity to make a highly valuable and enduring contribution to Kansas in the next few years.

The whole matter, of course, is one which you must decide and I shall not attempt to sway you one way or the other. I shall be extremely curious as to the outcome, however. If you accept the Commission job, I shall be most happy to offer you any suggestions you wish out of the background of my own experience.

I thank you for the reference to that editorial on the Governor. I expect to support him loyally all the way. As I said in that article, I feel he is consecrated to this task and I believe he will write a record of genuine attainment.

Sincerely,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

February 3, 1947

The Bell Syndicate, Inc.
New York City

Attention Mr. Joseph B. Agnelli

Dear Sirs:-

The sudden illness of our city editor a week ago today, which incapacitated him and upset our staff arrangements, has prevented an answer to your letter of January 21 until this time.

As you will note, I am herewith returning signed copies of the agreement for the Drew Pearson feature at the advanced rate, for one year only. I am limiting the time of this agreement for the reason that we do not receive it regularly. You will recall that within the past few months, I have written you several times about the interruptions in service. Last week was a case in point. We simply did not receive the copy from Chicago for Friday, January 31, and for Saturday, February 1. Sometimes such misses come through later, being marked "missent." In this instance, the copy has not arrived at all. Thus, we were without the feature for two days which, of course, disrupts the reader interest.

We like the Washington Merry-Go-Round and would like to maintain it as a regular feature, as we have done for a number of years now, provided we can count on receiving it promptly and regularly. We are showing our good faith for signing up for one more year. If we are accorded the same uncertain service we have had in the past year, we shall simply have to forget this feature and try something else. But so long as our chief trouble seems to lie in the mailing and the mail service itself, we feel you ought to be able to do something to improve the service. At least, we would like to have your reaction in this regard.

Very truly yours,

THE EL DORADO TIMES

Rolla Clymer correspondence

ALF M. LANDON
TOPEKA

February 3, 1947

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

Dear Rolla:

Someone in Texas -- I don't know who -- is going to file application before the Federal Communications Commission for a day time frequency in El Dorado.

The attorney representing this individual or group is representing me on two other applications I am making. He offered me, by telephone, the right to participate in the El Dorado broadcasting station for as large an interest as I care to take.

I am not going to take any. That is not because I don't think it has possibilities for profitable operations, but it is that I don't know enough about the business, and don't want to get in too far over my head.

I studied the possibilities that El Dorado offers for a small 250 watt station. If I had gone ahead with it I would of course discussed the matter with you, and would have not done so without you having an opportunity to have taken as large an interest as you want, and if you did not want to take an interest would not have entered your field over your objections.

Now the point is that the party or parties in Texas have done all the engineering and filed the application. If it is approved by the F. C. C. I can take as much of an interest as I want -- and I will pass it on to you -- without any commission.

I think it is worth your investigation. There is no hurry about it, because I doubt if there will be any action by the commission for some months.

With affectionate good wishes to you and all the Clymer tribe.

Sincerely,

Alf M. Landon

Alf M. Landon *S. R.*

AML:dr Mr. Landon left the office, and since he was anxious to get this letter to you, he had me sign it for him.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Columbia, Missouri
February 4, 1947

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

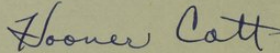
Dear Mr. Clymer:

Thank you for your letter bringing me up to date with the situation on your paper. I am still very much interested in talking with you, and I'm planning to come to El Dorado Friday or Saturday.

I am sorry that I haven't been able to see you before this, but the final examinations of the past few days have made it impossible for me to leave.

There are a few details to be taken care of after final examinations are finished tomorrow, but if things go well I should be able to see you Friday.

Very truly yours,



Hoover Cott

Rolla Clymer correspondence

THE TELEGRAM IS THE **Modern VALENTINE** FEB. 14

CALL WESTERN UNION FROM OFFICE, HOME, OR COIN-BOX PHONE

WESTERN UNION (30)

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1201

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DL	Day Letter
NL	Night Letter
LC	Deferred Cable
NLT	Cable Night Letter
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WZF83 7 1 EXTRA=COLUMBIA MO 4 458P 1947 FEB 4 PM 5 35

R A CLYMER=

EL DORADO TIMES

WILL SEE YOU FRIDAY OR SATURDAY=

HOOVER COTT COLUMBIA.

CLYMER.

By *2* 545P To Be *del*

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

Rolla Clymer correspondence

February 4, 1947

Mr. Eugene Lowther
Emporia, Kansas

My Dear Gene:-

I just want to tell you how deeply I appreciate your kindness in letting us have Klintworth during the past week. You can imagine how deep a hole we were in here when Bill went down. I turned to you old friends in my extremity and you did not fail me. I really think you--all of you--have done us about the greatest favor one newspaper could ever receive from another. Now I owe you a mighty big day in harvest. I don't suppose I can ever entirely repay you, but I shall want to try.

We are going along here haltingly but may pull out of the ruck one of these days. Klint was a godsend, sitting in with skill and precision and keeping things moving. He was the one man who could pull us out so surely, and your willingness to let him come was the factor that saved us a world of grief. In all this, I wish you would include Ted McDaniel. I know what it means to have a good hand pulled off one's staff--and his neighborly interest and help in this predicament was on a par with yours.

Please remember my gratitude. I don't want to sloop over about the matter but my heart is full when I think of how splendid and considerate you have been of me and the interests of our ~~paper~~ paper.

Sincerely,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

TELEGRAM

El Dorado, Kansas
February 4, 1947

Hoover Cott
1616 Anthony Street
Columbia, Mo.

May we expect you here last this week please wire.

R. A. Clymer
The Times

prepay and charge The Times

Rolla Clymer correspondence

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM
LAWRENCE

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

February 4, 1947

Mr. Rolla Clymer
Eldorado Times
Eldorado, Kansas

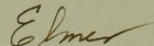
Dear Rolla:

Howard Rusco says that he has sent to you the only list he had of Kansas editors who died during 1946. I had asked for the list to use in our Hall of Fame records.

Can you send the list to me as soon as you have finished with it? I will have our secretary make a copy and will forward the original to Howard.

Are you still in the market for a reporter? I have not forgotten your request but simply haven't had any likely prospects. I would like to know, however, if you have filled the position.

Cordially yours,



ELMER F. BETH
Acting Chairman

Rolla Clymer correspondence

THE EMPORIA GAZETTE

W. A. WHITE, EDITOR AND OWNER

W. L. WHITE, PUBLISHER

EMPORIA, KANSAS

Feb. 5, 1947

Dear Boss:

One of the last things you said to me yesterday was "Think it over." I have -- and I've discussed it with the family. The result is that I am very much interested. Do you still want me?

Emporia has many advantages, of course, but I can hardly hope for a much better deal here for several years. So if you are interested in having me assume Bill's chores, perhaps we can get together.

First, however, I should like to have your advice. Do you think it would be a wise move on my part? We have our own home here but we could dispose of that. Undoubtedly we would have housing difficulties in El Dorado but the family wouldn't move until school is out and surely by then I would have been able to find something. And so far as Bob's education is concerned he could go to the junior college for two years and then to Kansas State or K. U. as we have planned.

Rex seems to be only lukewarm toward the job there as he, too, has complications. So I'm sure he wouldn't be the least bit resentful if I were to return. Strangely, I find that I have a growing yen to move back to the home pasture where I know practically everyone and his dog.

Now, boss, if you still feel that you would like to have me return, what would be the maximum salary? As you know, my job here with the incentive and sports correspondence amounts to \$55 or \$56 weekly. One more thing. Would we still have that other man?

If we decide that El Dorado is to be my future home, I would have to give the Gazette at least two weeks' notice. I know you would want me to do that.

I'm thinking of my future and am just a little bit puzzled. Please let me know what you think.

Sincerely,

Klint

Rolla Clymer correspondence

February 5, 1947

Mr. Elmer F. Beth
Department of Journalism,
The University of Kansas

Dear Mr. Beth:-

I have sent my only copy of the Kansas Press Association memorials to Howard Rusco. He said he had need for several extra copies and would have these made in his own office. I think you can secure what you need from him.

Yes, we are still on the hunt for a reporter but have a young man coming in from the University of Missouri the last of this week. If he proves satisfactory and I can make the proper arrangements with him, he will fill our present need. We have been in a fearful fix here the past ten days since our long-time city editor, Bill Feder, went down with a stroke.

Any information you can send me will be appreciated. I might add that my son, David, is now moving to Lawrence and should soon show up as a student in your department. I bespeak for him all your kindly offices in getting his course arranged and seeing that the boy has a proper start in his new endeavor.

Sincerely,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM
LAWRENCE

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

February 6, 1947

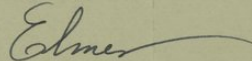
Mr. R. A. Clymer
The El Dorado Times
El Dorado, Kansas

Dear Rolla:

I am sorry that you had to call on Missouri for help, but we have had so many requests to fill staff vacancies that we are chagrined at our inability to help editors and publishers when they call on us. The increased enrollment in journalism (as in most other fields) is at the freshman and sophomore levels and it will take at least a year before the upper classes build up sufficiently to produce more graduates.

David was in to confer with me several weeks ago and I think we straightened out several of the questions which were giving him some trouble. I hope that he will do very well in his work at K.U. If you come to visit him, hope you will drop in on us.

Cordially,



Elmer F. Beth
Acting Chairman

EFB:GW

Rolla Clymer correspondence

KANSAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

THREE-ONE-FIVE WEST TENTH

TOPEKA

THE KANSAS TEACHER, OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
C. O. WRIGHT

PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS
MINTER E. BROWN, DIRECTOR

February 6, 1947

TO: SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF KANSAS

SUBJECT: Is Kansas Second From Top in Schools?

We have received a reprint of a page article which is to appear in LOOK magazine under date of February 18. This article is drawn from the book "Education, America's Magic" by Raymond M. Hughes and William H. Lancelot of Iowa State College. Minter and I have checked the book, and the data they use in the formulas are loaded with fallacy.

This LOOK article will probably be discussed by people in your community as it shows that Kansas holds second position in rank in U. S. education. Only Utah is supposed to top us. I am enclosing a copy of the letter I have written to a member of the LOOK staff who wrote us a letter and sent the advanced reprint.

The significant points are that the Hughes study used 1940 figures; it combines data to form questionable formula including ability of the state, current expenditures per pupil, number graduating, number in school, etc.

The LOOK article may do us damage because it tends to show that all is right with the world in Kansas. The book was also abstracted in the Reader's Digest.

Sincerely,

C O Wright

C. O. Wright
Executive Secretary

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609-G-233

Rolla Clymer correspondence

KANSAS STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

THREE-ONE-FIVE WEST TENTH

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C O P Y

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
C. O. WRIGHT

C O P Y

PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS
MINTER E. BROWN, DIRECTOR

February 5, 1947

Mr. Felix Jager
LOOK Magazine
511 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Jager:

Thanks very much for the reprint of the material you are running in LOOK on February 18, on the rank of the states in education. Kansas appreciates the compliment of being placed so high in the top one-third ranking, but frankly it is only a compliment.

As soon as the Hughes-Lancelot book came out, we got a copy. That was some two or three months ago. We spent some time on their analysis and consider it, so far as the current picture goes, to be as full of fallacies as a sieve is full of holes.

First of all the study is made basically on the 1940 census which is now nearly ten years old. In the second place, their combination of data, illiteracy, number attending high school, etc., they use to arrive at a formula is open to very serious question. The literacy figures prove very little except perhaps that Kansas has few foreigners and not many Negroes. It doesn't mean much to be able just to read and write. The significant thing is what is read and what is written and what you do as a citizen about it.

In the period covered by Mr. Hughes, this state was on its uppers in respect to state income. We were just emerging from the dust bowl period when farm income and income from cattle were in the cellar. Since then good weather and good prices have put us on easy street as a people though our expenditures for schools have lagged. We have lost possibly a higher number of our best teachers than any neighboring state unless it might be Nebraska. Our teachers salaries are disgraceful and young people who are entering our colleges are not preparing for teaching. Kansas has almost one-fourth of its teachers on emergency certificates. In respect to college training about one in three cannot meet a low certification requirement of a year college. We are very low on state support for schools. Some of our schools, where there is local substance, are good, some are as poor as any in the nation. Kansas is spotted.

We are proud of the fact that so many of our youth are in high school and so many finish high school and enter college. This is partly due to the belief of the people in education, but is probably chiefly due to the fact that farming in Kansas is seasonal. Wheat is planted in the late summer or early fall and is harvested after school is dismissed in the spring. There are few industries to call our youth from school. It is one thing to be in school, often quite another to be in a good school.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Mr. Felix Jager
LOOK Magazine

-2-

February 5, 1947

Frankly, I think the Hughes-Lancelot report, which is so full of fallacies and so far off the beam, has only historical value. Unfortunately, it will possibly do our state considerable damage. Had he run figures on preparation of teachers, years of service, salaries paid teachers, and state aid for schools, he would have had a better index of educational effectiveness. Certainly these factors should be in the picture. Income of 1940 is no index of income today.

If you really want to run a true story on the roll call of the states, I think you are going to have to look elsewhere than the Hughes-Lancelot report. You need something more up-to-date and you need a combination of data in formulas which will more effectively show educational outcome.

This criticism of the Hughes-Lancelot report is not a criticism of the fine work that LOOK has done in promoting better interest in public schools. The profession and all those interested in improving school opportunities appreciate the fine articles in the pages of your journal in advancing the cause.

Sincerely,

Signed: C. O. Wright
Executive Secretary
Kansas State Teachers Association

CW h
610-G-234