

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Section 853, Pages 25561 - 25590

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.

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I am another of the many El Doradoans who is glad that you decided on our town thirty years ago. It was a real thrill to me to read of Rolla's "Clymer Day." You see, everyone gets busy with the week and routine of earning a living and sort of overlooks turning to his neighbor to say "You are a swell fellow-- and I'm privileged to know you" So isn't it nice when a whole group of neighbors stops long

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enough to say it
together.
And - - you are due
every word of the
praise you are given.
Glen joins me
in sending our
congratulations and
our good wishes for,
at least, a couple more
30-year periods. Yours,
April 14, 1948 *Loretta*



Rolla Clymer correspondence

April 14, 1948

Mr. Richard W. Robbins
Greensburg, Kansas

Dear Dick:

I have your letter of April 10, with which you enclosed a memorandum prepared by Maurice E. Fager, Director of the Kansas Industrial Development Commission on the proposed T.V.A. steam plant at New Johnsonville, Tennessee.

I am thoroughly in accord with what is stated in this memorandum and your letter. I didn't vote for the T.V.A. in the first place. However, I have not opposed its development in recent years and I don't know that I would care to oppose further hydro-electric development at this time. In other words, since we have started on the project, I think the sensible thing to do is to fully develop the hydro-electric possibilities.

The idea, however, of going in and supplementing that with a government-owned steam plant is going much too far for me, and I certainly expect to oppose this proposition in every way possible.

With kindest regards, I am

Very cordially yours,

(s) Clifford R. Hope.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

April 14, 1948

Honorable Richard W. Robbins
Greensburg, Kansas

Dear Dick:

I am very glad to have your letter of April 10 with the memo from the KIDC on TVA's proposal to build a steam plant in Tennessee.

This memo has been called to my attention by a number of other "thinkers-through" in Kansas. I subscribe 100 per cent to all that you have to say in condemnation of this proposal and you may be assured of my opposition to it.

My best to you and all your nice folks.

Sincerely yours,

(s) Hubert A. Meyer.



April 14, 1948

Dear friend Robbins:

I appreciate having a copy of the memorandum attached to your letter. I am not in favor of writing for a T.V.A. or M.V.A. in Kansas at the expense of the taxpayers of our State.

Thanking you for writing me, I remain

Sincerely,

(s) Edward H. Rees

COPY



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Hutchinson
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Satanta
JAMES A. WILLIAMS
Dodge City

April 14, 1948

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE KANSAS HIGHWAYS FACT-FINDING AND
RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

For your information arrangements have been made for a
noon luncheon at the Jayhawk Hotel on April 23, 1948
between the morning and afternoon sessions of our
committee meeting.

Very truly yours,

R. G. Lake

Executive Secretary

RGL:ds

Rolla Clymer correspondence

April 15, 1948

Mr. Clyde Reed jr.
The Sun,
Parsons, Kansas

My Dear Clyde:-

I am greatly indebted to you for your kindly reference to me in your editorial column the other day. I don't think you are going to be able to make a "great man" out of me, either in my own estimation or that of others, yet nevertheless I appreciate your generous attitude. This newspaper business in Kansas is a great fun in many ways--barring certain manifest difficulties--and mainly because of the comradely spirit among the writin' fellows. They are always quick to praise the other fellow's stuff, and not too hidebound about their own. I have tried to make clear for some time about what I think of your editorials, and still believe that nobody in the state is beating you with daily "on the target" shots.

Once again, let me say "thank you." Best luck to you now and always--and especially at Philadelphia. I must be getting a second childhood, but I find myself warming up to this Stassen fellow. But don't let me try to influence your vote.

Sincerely,



BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS AND BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK BANTAMS

H. B. Patten

601 North Plum

Hutchinson, Kansas

April-15

Dear Rolla:

I notice by this morning's Herald-
where the people of El Dorado are celebrating
30 years of Clymer - their patience must
border on the phenomenal. I stood
2 years of association with you upon
Reosho in Emporia. and I should be to
think what 30 years could be like.

I often think of the old gang you
mother had to put up with - I hear from
Elbert D. every so often - and I wonder
what became of the shanty. Irish man

Rolla Clymer correspondence

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS AND BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK BANTAMS

H. B. Patten

601 North Plum

Hutchinson, Kansas

John Townley - hope has learned to wash
his-feet. Saw in the paper the other
day when ~~a~~ man had not had a
bath for 66 years. Lets see how old
could John be now?

Allow me to add my faltering voice
to those already raised in praise - dont
you know old man that 30 years is
a long time to look at your ugly mug -
and still have kind words for you -

Best wishes for 30 more -

Sincerely
H. B. Patten

THE McPHERSON DAILY REPUBLICAN

K. R. KREHBIEL
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

McPHERSON, KANSAS

April 15, 1948

Mr. Rolla Clymer, Editor
Eldorado Times
Eldorado, Kansas

Dear Rolla:

My heartiest congratulations on the recognition you were given at your thirty year anniversary yesterday.

It isn't every day that a town will turn out for an editor after it has been putting up with his batter-brain rantings for thirty years.

In fact the occasion so impressed me that it inspired a squib for today's paper.

My kindest regards and may the coming years be the best yet for you.

Sincerely,

Ken

KRK/dlm

Rolla Clymer correspondence

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McPHERSON REPUBLICAN

K. R. KREHBIEL
Editor & Publisher

Published Daily Except Sunday
Member Kansas Press Association
Full Leased Wire Service

Entered as second class matter at the
Post Office at McPherson, Kas.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—

By carrier in McPherson, 20c a week. In
all other towns where we have a carrier
the rate is 15c a week whether by carrier
or by mail. Rural rate in McPherson
County, \$4.00 a year. \$5.00 a year outside
McPherson County. No sales tax required.

MISSED PAPERS—All subscribers in
McPherson should receive their copies of
The Republican before 5:30 p. m. each
week day. If not received by that time,
call 98 before 6:00 p. m. and a copy will
be delivered at once.

That Man Clymer

Yesterday, a Kansas editor re-
ceived one of the top awards a
man can achieve in newspaper
work. After belaboring his read-
ers for 30 years, demanding this
or that improvement for his town,
that same town turned around and
threw him a testimonial dinner in
appreciation of his service.

That man was our good friend,
Rolla (Ham) Clymer, editor of the
El Dorado Times. If you know
him as we do, you appreciate what
this recognition meant. He didn't
win such goodwill by milk-sop
tactics, or by telling everybody
what a swell job they were doing.

Far from it—Nobody can strike
out more forcibly against things
he thinks are wrong than can
Clymer. Probably most of the
people who feted him had been
fighting mad at him at one time
or another.

But none can deny that every
day of those 30 years Rolla was
fighting for what he thought
would be best for his state and
nation—but above all—what
would be best for his own home
town.

Best for his own home town.

And no newspaperman can wish
for higher recognition than that.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

N

Plane Crash In Ireland Kills 30

One American, An
Airline Official,
Escapes Death; Ship
Crashes Near Airport

Shannon Airport, Eire, April 15
(AP)—A Constellation flying from
Calcutta to New York crashed to-
day almost a half mile short of
its landing runway here and all
but one of the 31 aboard perished.

Pan American World Airways
said the plane, "Empress of the
Skies", was making a routine in-
strument approach. It crashed
into flaming wreckage 2,400 feet
from the runway, the air line add-
ed.

The dead included 19 Amer-
icans and Sir Homi Meta, wealthy
Indian industrialist.

The India office in London said
one of the victims was Sir Homi
Meta, 77, Bombay millionaire and
a director of the central board
of the reserve bank of India.

Marc Worst, 38, of Burbank,
Calif., was the sole survivor. He
said the force of the crash threw
him out through the baggage com-
partment.

(The passenger list released in
New York contained the name of
George Henderson, care of the
American legation in Damascus.)

There was no immediate explana-
tion concerning the cause of the
crash. Basil Warnock, American
overseas airlines stationmaster at
Shannon, said weather observers
reported three-mile visibility at

Rolla Clymer correspondence

April 15, 1948

Mr. Robert L. Kidd
Cities Service Oil Company
Bartlesville, Okla.

My Dear Bob:-

It was bully of you to write me and I always greatly enjoy any word from you. I was more than a little astonished when I opened up my "Service" magazine copy this month, and saw what had happened to the little arrow I once shot into the air. Naturally I was pleased over this recognition, but the friendship I have always had from the Cities Service companies and Cities Service men has always far outweighed any small service I have been able to render in return. I cherish my acquaintance with oil companies and oil folk about as much as anything in my life.

The knowledge of the substantial success you have attained is a matter of great pride and satisfaction to me, and you have my constant best wishes.

Sincerely,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

April 15, 1948

Mrs. Leah Smith
El Dorado, Kansas

My Dear Leah:-

I can never tell you how deeply your gift and card touched me. Both are something that I shall always cherish. The little elephant is perhaps the choicest piece in my modest collection, which also contains other prime examples of your generosity. What you wrote at the bottom of the card is something precious--to be considered long afterwards during dark days. I must confess that I am still in a daze about all the events of this week. I can't ever believe that I "rated" all this attention, but such manifestation of friendship on every hand has been nevertheless a heart-warming experience.

Please let me say "thank you," and just leave it there. Your utter kindness all the way has been one of the great sustaining influences of my life.

Sincerely,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

April 15, 1948

Mr. Virg Hill
The Daily Capital
Topeka, Kansas

My Dear Virg:-

Your "pretty, pink, pellucid" ears must be burning today. All the boys are saying you made a grand speech--"one of the best ever." They are bragging about you so much, I am getting a bit jealous; I don't think they should forget me so soon. After all, I was the prize bull at the country fair--but that makes no difference. The consensus is that you made a ten-strike, and these birds are so enthusiastic they may take you into the El Dorado Lodge. I must tell you it isn't such a bad place to be.

Once again, I want to tell you how grateful I am for all that you did for me in this effort. It was just right from my standpoint, except that I had to blush a few more times after I read over your manuscript at home last evening. But you painted me warts and all, and that was a job few could do as well as you did. I shall ever be grateful for this favor, as well as for that letter which you wrote me after Kansas Day.

I worked~~t~~ in the yard and the garden for a couple of hours last evening, and got down to earth--fast. I am steadily back there today. But I am not going to forget your kindness--and my day will come to repay the debt, with interest. That's a promise.

Best wishes to Mrs. Hill and your daughter. And a whole passel of skoals to you.

Sincerely,

April 15, 1948

Mr. Elwood Hobbs
The Star
Kansas City, Missouri

My Dear Elwood:-

I want you to know that I greatly appreciate your reference to me and my "anniversary" in Kansas Notes the first of this week. You have been exceedingly generous with me over long years, and I am in your debt to an extent where I doubt I can ever pay off. Still, I shall try--and, in the meantime, please be assured of my deep gratitude for all your kindly favors.

Sincerely,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

April 15, 1948

Mrs. Glenwood Dietz
El Dorado, Kansas

My Dear Loretta:-

Your kind note just came and thanks so much. I have always appreciated your graciousness to me, and this instance just leaves me that much deeper in your debt. Of course, I don't believe some of the stuff that has been bruited about the past day or two--but it was nice to hear. Now, I am not an ancient gaffer yet and I don't want to make old bones in a chimney corner. I simply won't be pushed. So, all your good folks are going to have to put up with me for an ungodly while longer yet.

Again, my sincerest gratitude.

Yours,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

April 15, 1948

Mr. Murray F. Gill, President
Kansas Gas and Electric Company,
Wichita, Kansas

My Dear Mr. Gill:-

I greatly appreciate your cordial letter, though I feel it was entirely too kind in its references to me. I have long been aware of your friendly interest and deeply cherish it. I regret that you could not be with us yesterday. Everybody seemed to have a good time, except perhaps the "victim." We all understood, however, the reasons for your absence.

I don't feel like an ancient museum piece yet, and truly hope that I shall be privileged to be around a long time yet, lending a little helping hand wherever I can to such fine friends as you and your company.

Sincerely,



Rolla Clymer correspondence

April 15, 1948

Richard W. Robbins
Guymon, Oklahoma

Dear Dick:

Accept my sincere thanks for your letter of April 10. I think I had heretofore been alerted to the TVA situation and the rather ambitious program they have in mind for future promotions.

It has been my observation during the brief time I have been in Congress that once these agencies get their nose under the tent so to speak, they never back away. On the other hand, they continue to expand just as long as the taxpayer's funds are available.

Dick, I think you know that you and I see almost eye-to-eye on these matters. I wish I could say the same thing for some of the present top Republican leadership.

Sincerely yours,

(s) Ross Rizley.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

April 15, 1948

Mr. Fred Brinkerhoff
The Headlight and Sun,
Pittsburg, Kansas

My Dear Fred:-

Things have been happening around here this week, or I would have written you sooner. I see you have been trying to make a "great man" of me again, and I am grateful--though I don't feel you are going to get very far in your effort. I was amused at how well you picked me off, with your references to "tripod" and "eschewed." I should hate ever to try to fool any of you newspaper fellows.

You have been almighty good to me, Fred, over long years and I am deeply sensible of your generosity. I can't measure up to some of the comment you make, but I can still recognize the fact of your fine friendship and make allowances. I want you to know now, if I have never made it plain before, that this friendship between us is one of the fine sustaining influences of my life.

Sincerely,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Rolla Clymer

Refuting the theory that prophets, as well as newspaper publishers, are not without honors save in their own balliwicks, the city of El Dorado has fittingly recognized Rolla Clymer, manager and publisher of the Daily Times, for his 30 years of service to that community. Sponsored by the Rotary club, of which he was the first president, Clymer was the guest of honor at a luncheon in which his fellow townsmen and outside guests paid tribute to his efforts in behalf of his home city and the state at large.

During the three decades Clymer has been a Kansas newspaper man he has found the time and energy to lend a hand to many matters which were of statewide importance. He has been active politically, and his voice has been continually raised in behalf of his party. He has stood for industrial expansion and all other matters concerning the economic welfare of the state. But El Dorado has been his first and last love, to cherish and defend at all times.

Rolla Clymer is of, for and by Kansas. He is of the breed which has helped to make this a great state, typical of a free people who say what they think and do largely as they please. The Eagle joins in extending congratulations.

Rolla Clymer correspondence



Wichita Eagle, Inc.

Morning, Evening and Sunday

WICHITA 1, KANSAS

MARCELLUS M. MURDOCK, Publisher

April 15, 1948

Mr. R. A. Clymer
Eldorado, Kansas

Dear Rolla:

That was a swell gesture that your fellow citizens made toward you Wednesday. I was awfully sorry that my absence was unavoidable. I surely would have liked to have joined in the compliment to you. Find enclosed copy of editorial which I hope will substitute in some measure for the things I might have said personally at the dinner.

Yours very truly,

Marcellus M. Murdock

MMM/gd
Encl.

Rolla Clymer correspondence

April 16, 1948

Mr. H. B. Patten
Hutchinson, Kansas

My Dear ~~Hiram~~ Hiram:-

It was worth all the agony of this 30-year "anniversary" business to blast out that letter from you. The missive arrived this morning and gave me a lot of enjoyment, which translated means a few belly laughs. I think the greatest pleasure I could wish for would be to get into another 3-handed pitch game with you and Sev. You say you hear from that peckerwood; I seldom do, but doubt not that he is as busy and serious as ever.

I shall take your letter with me when I go to see my mother at Wichita Sunday. She is quite old now--past 83--and exceedingly feeble, but her mind is still strong and alert. She has never forgotten you rascals who stayed at the house, for she loved you as if you were of her own flock.

I greatly appreciate the kindness of your letter. It is old friends like you that make this latter-day life worth while. I hope I shall get to visit you one of these days, and then we shall make the welkin ring with our clacking. Many thanks again.

Sincerely,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

ANGELO SCOTT
THE IOLA REGISTER
IOLA, KANSAS

April 16, 1948

Mr. Rolla Clymer,
The Eldorado Times,
Eldorado, Kansas.

Dear Rolla:-

If Kansas votes wet this fall, will
The Times accept liquor advertising?

We haven't quite made up our minds
here at The Register. The better ethical argument, I
presume, is on the side of declining it. On the other
hand, 77 per cent of the daily newspapers in wet states
accept hard liquor advertising.

Perhaps you haven't thought much about
it yet. The reason I am thinking about it now is that
The Register intends to support repeal. If we decide not
to accept liquor advertising in case the state goes wet,
an announcement to that effect at the time we announce
our stand on repeal would perhaps add some weight to our
position. At least it would prevent the possible accusation
that our support is based on selfish motives.

We need some help in making up our minds.
What are you going to do?

Sincerely,

Angelo

AS:BH

Rolla Clymer correspondence

April 16, 1948

Cong. E. H. Rees
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Ed:-

I want you to know that I greatly appreciate your telegram which came in time for the party which the Rotary boys "threw" for me this week. You and I have been firm friends over long years, and I deeply cherish the fact. It seems to me that in the expression of friendship's favors, the balance is always swung your way. Maybe I shall live long enough, and be fortunate enough, to swing it back the other way--or, at least, to even keel. Surely, I shall try.

I am glad that I shall have another chance this year to aid your interests. Please be sure to come and see me so we can have a long visit, as soon as you can spare the time after you get back to Kansas. And many thanks again for the cordial word you sent me Wednesday.

Sincerely,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

April 16, 1948

Mr. John Reed
The Eagle
Wichita, Kansas

My Dear John:-

I am deeply grateful for your kind editorial reference to me in The Eagle today. I am sure I can't measure up to your estimate, but I do greatly appreciate this expression of your good will. Both you and The Eagle have been exceedingly gracious to me over long years, and your confidence is something I highly esteem. I don't intend to be tossed into the boneyard for awhile yet, and maybe I shall be able to repay all you good folk--in half-way fashion, at least--before that happens. Again, many thanks to you.

Sincerely,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

April 16, 1948

Cong. H. A. Meyer
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Hub.:-

Thanks heaps for your letter. I know you had to steal the time to write it, and that makes it all the more precious to me. I cherish your friendship more than I can rightfully tell you in a note of this length. I only wish our paths had crossed sooner. The folks here and around the state are a lot kinder to me than I deserve and, you, of course, are one of them. But I most surely appreciate this expression of your good will.

Charley Smith was here yesterday. He tells me you should have no trouble either at the primary or election this year. From what I hear, I agree with him. I wish you all the best at the polls and everywhere else, and only wish I were in your district to help slug for you when the slugging counts.

Sincerely,

Rolla Clymer correspondence

April 16, 1948

Mr. William Frailey, Editor
The Traveler,
Arkansas City, Kansas

My Dear Bill:-

I want you to know that I greatly appreciate your editorial reference to me this week. I know full well that you and some of the other boys can't make me out a Great Man, but it is interesting to see you try and sweet of you to make the effort. My hat is still the same size, Bill, as it was before all this ruckus--but thanks heaps for this kind expression of your good will.

Sincerely,