

#### **Rolla Clymer correspondence**

Section 859, Pages 25741 - 25770

This series of the Rolla Clymer collection includes sent and received correspondence arranged chronologically beginning in 1909. With few exceptions, the correspondence provides a continuous and very complete view of his activities. Much of the earliest correspondence in the Clymer collection pertains to information about the College of Emporia for the period Clymer was a student there. Scattered throughout the remainder of the correspondence is information about Emporia athletics and alumni activities and letters with former classmates. From 1914 to 1918, Clymer was editor and manager of the Olathe, Kansas, Register. In 1918, Rolla Clymer moved his young family to El Dorado, Kansas, where he became editor and manager of the El Dorado Republican. Except for a six month hiatus in 1937 as editor and manager of the Santa Fe New Mexican in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Clymer served the remainder of his professional career in El Dorado.

In his later years, Clymer devoted much of his time to efforts to preserve the Kansas Flint Hills region which he dearly loved. In addition to newspaper editorials, he wrote and published numerous widely circulated articles and poems about the Flint Hills. Perhaps his best known tribute was his poem "Majesty of the Hills," which helped earn him the designation as Poet Laureate of the Flint Hills. Rolla Clymer died on June 4, 1977, having been the editor of the El Dorado Times for fifty-nine years. For a complete contents list of the Rolla Clymer collection, see the External Links below.

Date: 1909-1977

Callnumber: Rolla Clymer Coll. #9, Box 1 - 49

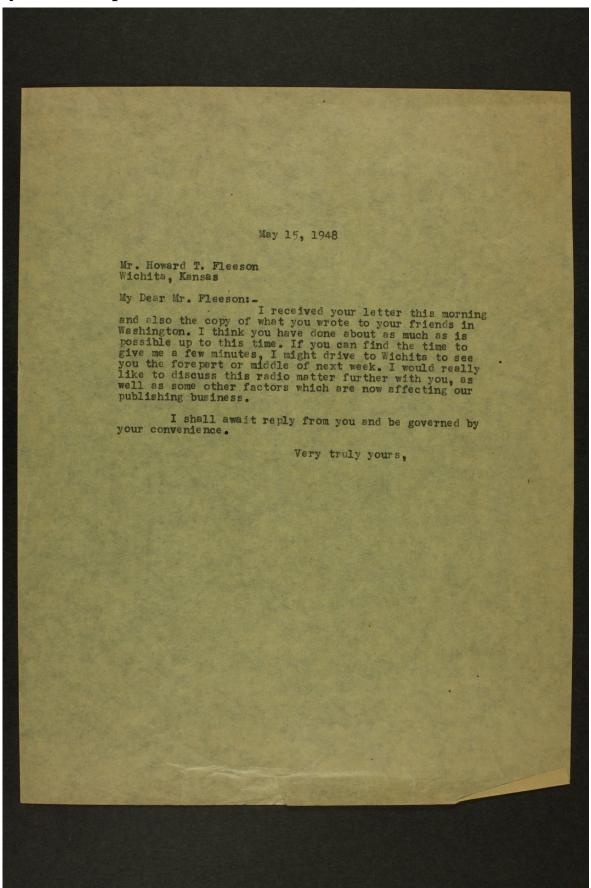
KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 229011

Item Identifier: 229011

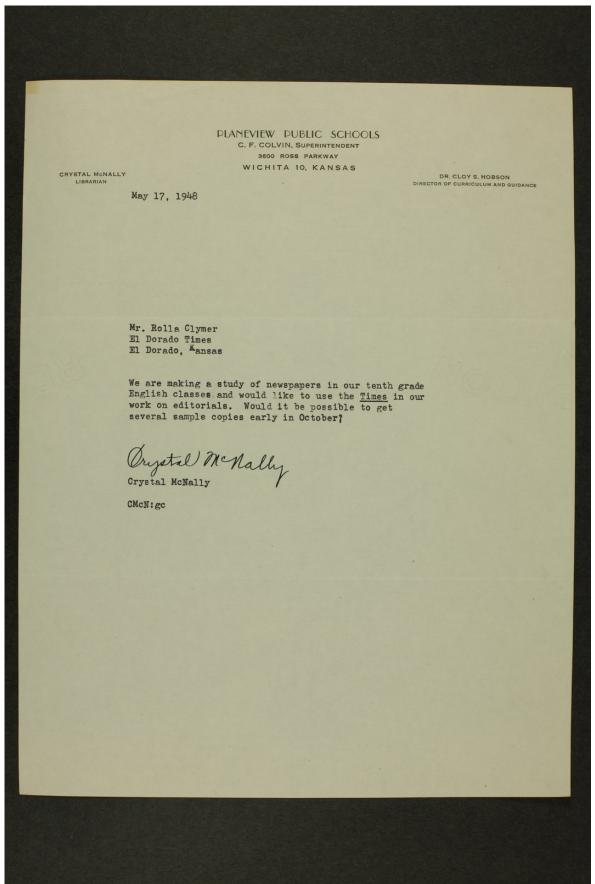
www.kansasmemory.org/item/229011

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY

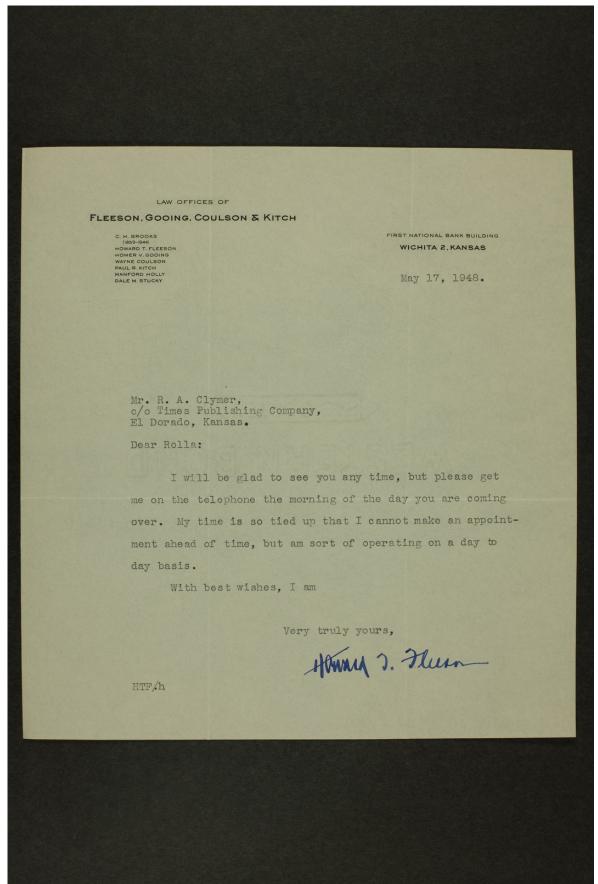




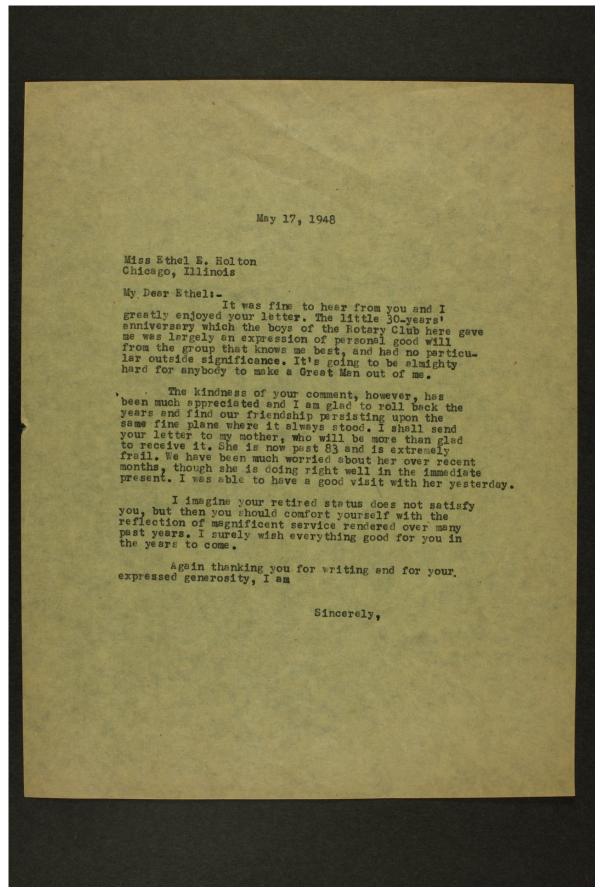




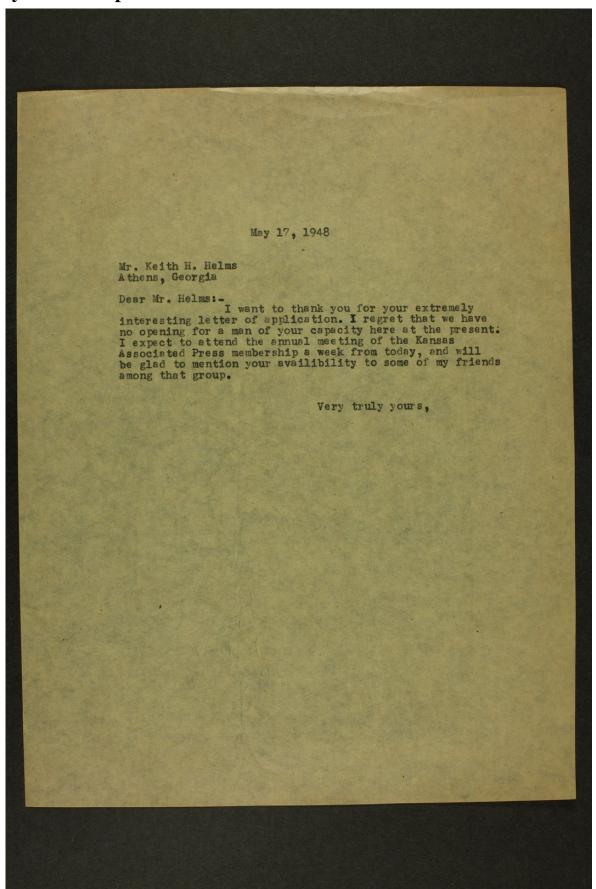




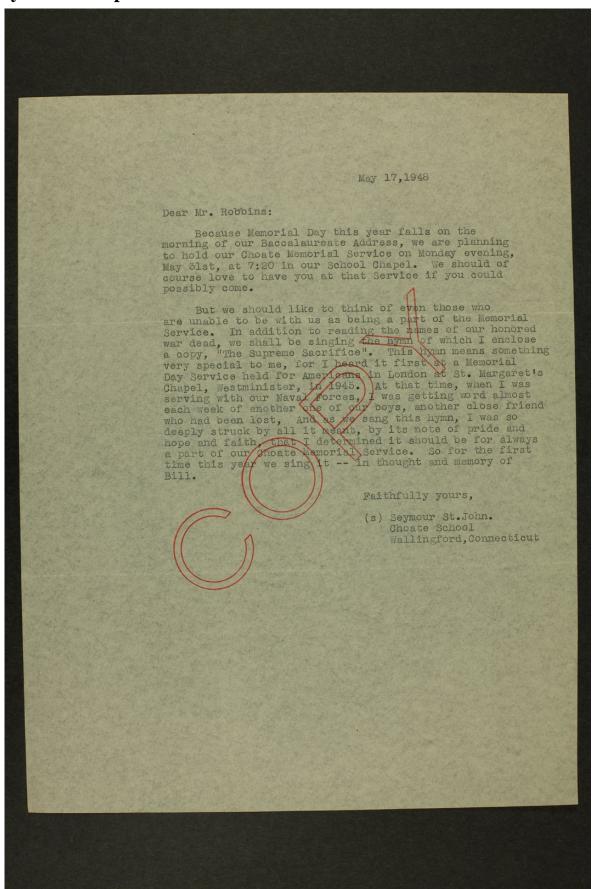




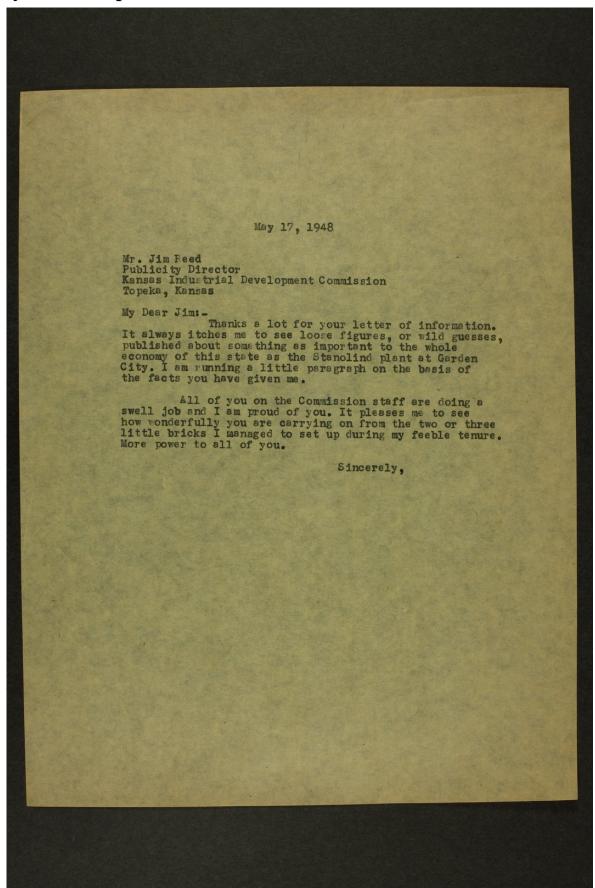














#### Rolla Clymer correspondence

#### THE DERBY OIL COMPANY

PRODUCERS, REFINERS, MARKETERS

WICHITA 1, KANSAS

May 17, 1948

Mr. R. A. Clymer, Editor and Manager, Eldorado Times, Eldorado, Kansas.

Dear Rolla:

I have just received a reprint of your editorial dated February 27, 1948 on "Just Another Tax".

After reading your editorial I am prompted to say that it is one of the finest articles concerning the severance tax issue that I have read in any publication, and only wish that more people understood the situation as well as you do.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

HEZ/lfh



Rolla Clymer correspondence



Mr. C. O. Wright Executive Secretary Kansas State Teachers Association Topeka, Kansas

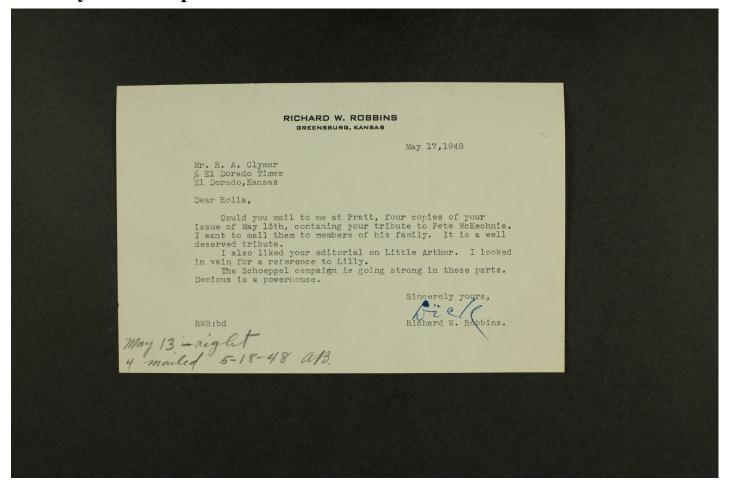
I have read your kind and friendly letter with a great deal of interest. In the first place, the reprint of my editorial against the severance tax to which you refer is being circulated by the Kansas and Oklahoma division of the Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association. This is in no sense a foreign "source" which is trying to help the asselled oil and gas interests of our state, but a big organization which includes scores of Kansans in its membership. I might add (wickedly) that I am being paid no royalty for this distribution of my "brain child."

The proposal you make me is sporting enough and is characteristic of your essential fairness. I am entirely willing to exchange space in our respective publications for a fair discussion of a subject which we view from diamterically opposed viewpoints. Still, your offer seems to make me out as much more important than I really am. I am not the anointed keeper of the public welfare for the oil and gas interests of Kansas. I am simply a country editor who tried fairly hard to call his shots as he sees them. The fact that Jack Harris, the Kansas City Star and all the other array of the Great and the Near Great which view this matter differently than I do fail to budge me one whit. I have known all of them to be wrong, even as I am often wrong and may be so now. But this consideration does not mean that I won't fight to the finish for what I believe in the ruckus now pending.

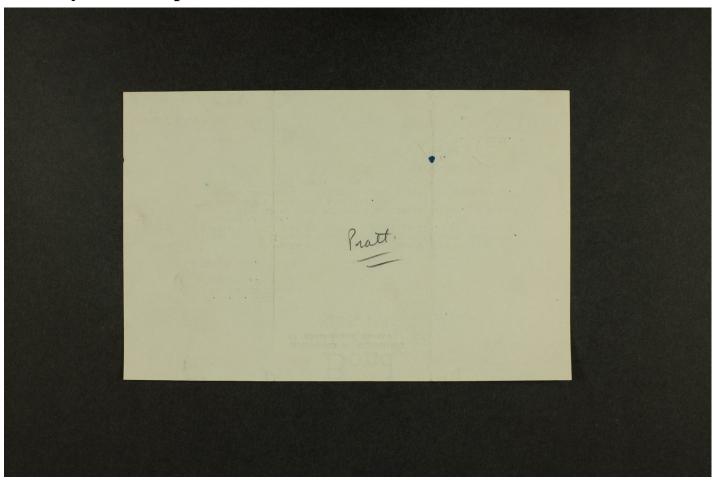
I am under a great deal of pressure these days and have not been thinking along the severance tax lines for a month or two. I am not in the mood to start an exchange of shots just now, but may be so shortly. Let's leave it this way: I intend to be in Topeka a week from today for the AP meeting. I shall try to find time then to see you for a few minutes and talk over the subject further. I don't want a steak dinner. I fear that a steak and your natural persuasiveness might break me down. And if I went over to your side, whoinell would you have to throw bricks at?

Sinc erely,











#### **Rolla Clymer correspondence**



Mr. Chesley C. Herndon Vice-President and Counsel Skelly Oil Company Tulsa, Oklahoma

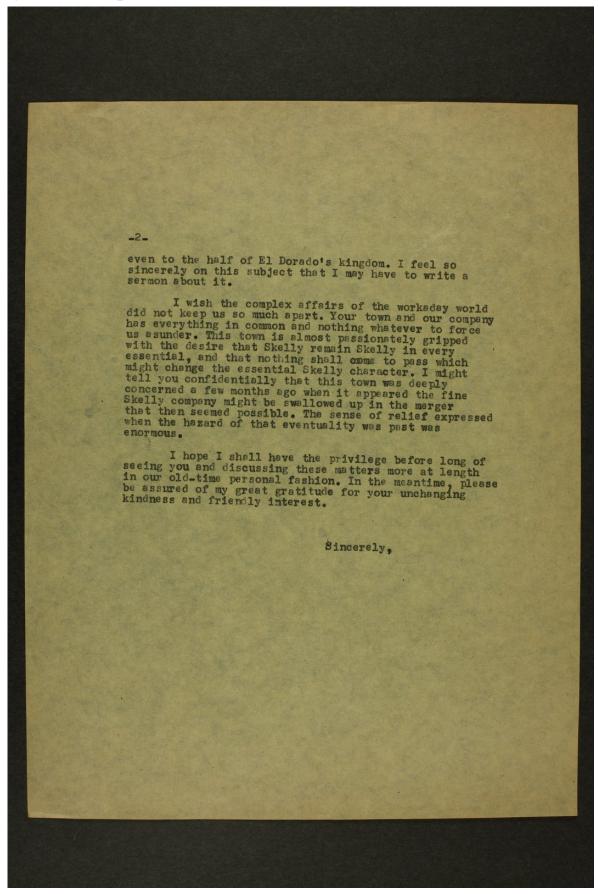
My Dear Mr. Herndon:

You have written me numerous warmly generous letters over past years, and another in the same category came Saturday. Like all its predecessors, I appreciated it greatly. Your approval of what I have written against the severance tax was extremely gratifying. I feel confident that we of Kansas will have to meet the best-organized and most insistent push for this particular tax in the next session of the legislature that we have ever encountered. It is vital that all opposing interests be prepared to resist that campaign adequately. I feel that all our resources will have to be marshalled and chaverly applied in order to defeat this latest proposal. applied in order to defeat this latest proposal.

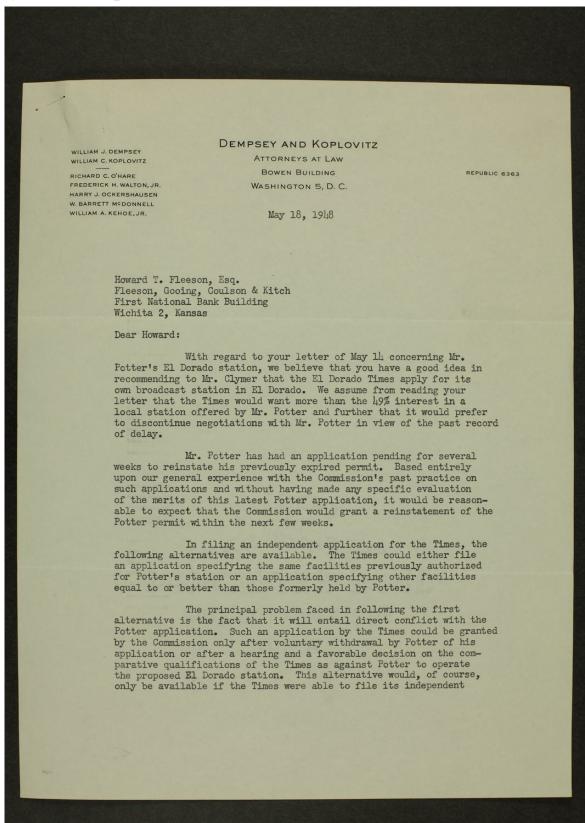
I thank you also for your reference to my recent editorial concerning the Skelly enlargement program at the El Dorado plant. I think you know that it is always a pleasure to me to be able to give Skelly a boost. That what I write occasions a favorable reaction among your fine Skelly organization makes my little effort always doubly gratifying. I received a splendid letter from Mr. Skelly on this subject, and should have replied to it before now. But I really had in my mind that I would attend the oil exposition this week, and intended to see him and express my thanks personally. Unfortunately I have been kept at home this week, and will have to postpone that Tulsa visit a little longer.

Mr. Skelly seems to feel that perhaps his company and its enterprises is not properly appreciated in this town. I feel earnestly that he is mistaken in this conception. El Dorado maintains a vast pride in the whole Skelly operation here—and that company is always mentioned first in the list of possessions for which this town is profoundly grateful. It may be that the personal contacts between town and company are not as close as they once were, but I wish to assure you that the whole Skelly operation, as well as Mr. Skelly himself, are tops in this town's estimation. Skelly can always have from El Dorado anything that may be needful in the conduct of its affairs—











#### Rolla Clymer correspondence

DEMPSEY AND KOPLOVITZ

- 2 -

Howard T. Fleeson, Esq.

May 18, 1948

application before the Commission acted within the next few weeks to reinstate the Potter permit. Once the Potter permit is reinstated any opportunity of filing an independent application for the same facilities would be foreclosed.

The second of the alternatives discussed above would be to employ a consulting engineer to find better facilities than those formerly held by Potter and to file an application for such facilities as would involve no conflicts with either Potter or any existing station or pending application.

Your letter points out that El Dorado is not of sufficient size to permit survival of two broadcast stations. This fact would suggest that, if the newspaper applied for its own station with better or at least equal facilities to Potter's, Mr. Potter would probably abandon his present plans for reinstatement of his expired permit, since he must undoubtedly realize that his chances of competing successfully and surviving as an out-of-town station owner against a station with better facilities that would be locally owned by the newspaper would be poor. The only possible move that we could see for Mr. Potter in meeting an application filed by the Times would be to make an endeavor to find other local El Dorado citizens who would be willing to come in with him and compete against the newspaper. An evaluation of the probability of his being able to make such a move could, of course, be best determined by the newspaper with its knowledge of local conditions.

If it is decided to be preferable to file an independent application by the Times for other and better facilities than those requested by Potter, the question of whether Mr. Potter's El Dorado permit has been restored or not would be a matter of no consequence in detering or blocking any progress by the Times in pursuing its own application.

Without knowing all of the facts of a local nature that would necessarily have to be evaluated in reaching a sound decision or how to proceed, it would appear to us that an independent application by the Times for better facilities not in conflict with Potter would be preferable to an independent application requesting the same facilities as Potter. As previously pointed out, it is absolutely essential, if the latter alternative is to be followed, to file an independent application before the Commission has acted to grant reinstatement of the Potter permit; otherwise, that possibility is conclusively foreclosed as an available alternative. This appears to us



