

Rolla Clymer correspondence

Section 934, Pages 27991 - 28020

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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HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Rolla Clymer correspondence

The Pittsburg Headlight

EVENINGS EXCEPT SUNDAY

Established 1887

THE PITTSBURG SUN

Established 1915

THE PITTSBURG PUBLISHING COMPANY

F. W. BRINKERHOFF EDITOR AND MANAGER

> Pittsburg, Kansas Sept. 26, 1950

Rolla A. Clymer The Times El Dorado, Kas.

Dear Rolla:

Yes, I will do the best I can along the line you suggest at the AP meeting in Kansas City, Oct. 30. Ray Green was one of the most interesting Kansans I have ever known. I knew of no one with whom I would rather visit. Through the years it was a delight to spend a little time with him. It never occurred to me that there was ever a personal motive back of any observation he made about men or measures. He was as calmly satisfied with his own fortunes as anyone could be. When he was indignant he was calmly indignant—but terribly indignant—even if he did not go out on the housetops like some of us and display his anger. You know, of course, of the bitter feeling between Ray and Gomer Davies. An incident that stands out in my memory occurred in the grand ball room in the Waldorf at an AP luncheon. Ray and I were at the same table, as we frequently were. Marvin Creager came by. Creager originated in Republic County. He never had met Ray. I introduced them. Said Creager: "Concordia! How is my old friend Gomer Davies getting along?" Said Ray: "I don't know. I never see the gentleman." I was embarrassed because I knew about the situation. But the way Ray said what he had another pet peeve. This was Scoop Hill. If we wanted to stimulate Ray's eloquence we would mention Scoop.

My first acquaintance with Ray was in the early 20s when we stirred up the trouble about the AP rates. Ray went on the committee to find out why we were being charged what. From then on I saw him occasionally and became better acquainted with him. For many years man I had classified him as one of my closest friends. He was not a friend who was looking for votes or favors of any kind. He was, therefore, a year around friend. You and I, I am sure, are alike in this respect, that a friend of that kind is the only one for whom one can have real respect.

Yes, I will do it.

Sincerely yours,

W. Brinkerhoff

FWB:1s



Rolla Clymer correspondence

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS STAR SUILDING KANSAS CITT S. MQ.

September 27, 1950

Mr. Clyde M. Reed, Jr. Editor The Sun Parsons, Kansas

Dear Clyde:

This is one I forgot to mention in our telephone conversation today.

At our Spring meeting at Fort Riley the Kansas AP members voted to have the Kansas Continuing Study Committee devise a plan for a news writing contest similar to our photo contest. You may have noted this in the minutes. Anyhow this is how the minutes read in part:

"He (Gorrie) mentioned that Missouri members had decided to undertake an annual award for the best handled state news stories submitted by member correspondents and suggested the Kansas members might want to consider a similar contest. The members quickly voiced approval and asked their continuing study committee to draw up tentative plans for the contest and to make a report at the Fall meeting."

The Missouri group approved a similar motion when Norman Isaacs of the St. Louis Star-Times pointed out the success of a Texas news writing contest. I am enclosing the rules and some other material regarding the Texas contest but it appears to be more of a general contest based on the material used by the various members whether or not sent to the AP.

I think we should make our contest as simple as possible, especially in the beginning, considering the best spot news story, best feature and best handled story, something beyond the call of duty. Or just merely one award for the best story sent to the AP, everything taken into consideration.

If you have time why don't you whip up a brief outline for a recommendation to the October meeting and submit it for suggestions to your other committee members. Something should be decided too about awards and how the money is to be raised if cash prizes are to be presented. Possibly a plaque or certificate for the correspondents would be sufficient.

Missouri is working on a similar contest and it would help if the two contests were alike -- similar rules. E. L. Dale, publisher of the Carthage, Mo., Press is the Missouri study committee chairman so you can get in touch with him if you care to. I am sending him a similar letter today with the same Texas information. If you and Dale could agree on a brief set of rules the rest would be easy.

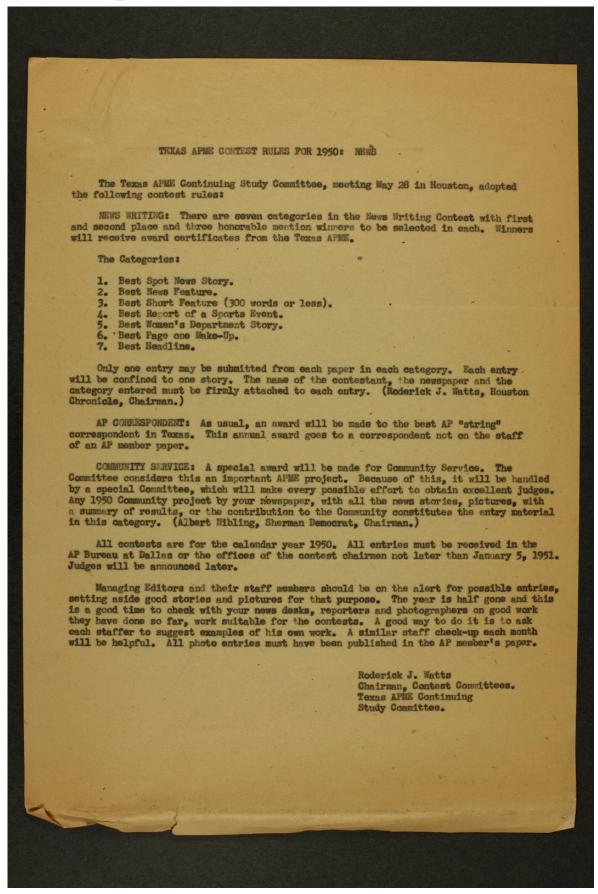
Sincerely,

Frank G. Gorrie:rb enc.

Chief of Bureau

cc Mr. R. A. Clymer, El Dorado Times (With copy of Texas material)







Rolla Clymer correspondence

AP TEXAS SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICE

MANAGING EDITORS:

This is to remind you that you have less than a month to mail to me your entries for the News Contest, winners of which will be announced at the El Paso meeting on February 15, 19/8.

December 15 is the deadline for these entries.

You may submit not more than three entries in each of the following six categories:

- 1. Spot News (including political writing).
- 2. News Feature writing.
- 3. Sports writing.
- 4. Staff correspondence.
- 5. Special citation to a Texas AP member paper for Community public service. (Last year this award went to the Abilene Reporter-News and Wendell Bedichek for the successful campaign to change the form of city government. Honorable Mention to the Denton Record-Chronicle for presentation of civic problems resulting in improved public service; to the Houston Chronicle for its campaign in furtherance of public health.)
 - 6. Citation to a Texas AP string correspondent selected for outstanding work.
 - Please note carefully the following instructions for submitting entries:
 - 1. Each entry must be submitted on standard bond paper, 82 x 11, neatly pasted.
 - 2. If stories exceed the measurements of the page, they should be clipped together.
- 3. In the upper left-hand corner give the name of the writer, the name of the newspaper, the name of the city, and the designation of the category in which the entry is submitted.
- 4. Place all entries in one manila folder, labeling the folder with the name of the newspaper and the city.

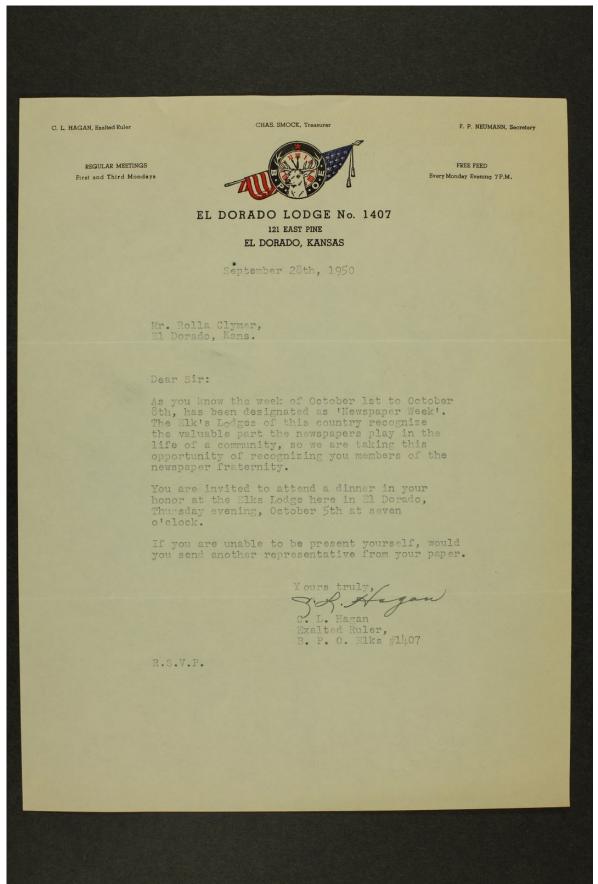
I have made arrangements for the entries to be judged by the January seminar of city editors of the American Press Institute of Columbia University. Mr. Floyd Taylor, Director of the Institute, was so gracious in accepting responsibility for the judging, that I want to know make his task as easy as possible by submitting the entries in the best possible shape. Do not send bound files, or complete newspapers!

Please give me your best cooperation in this contest, and address your entries:

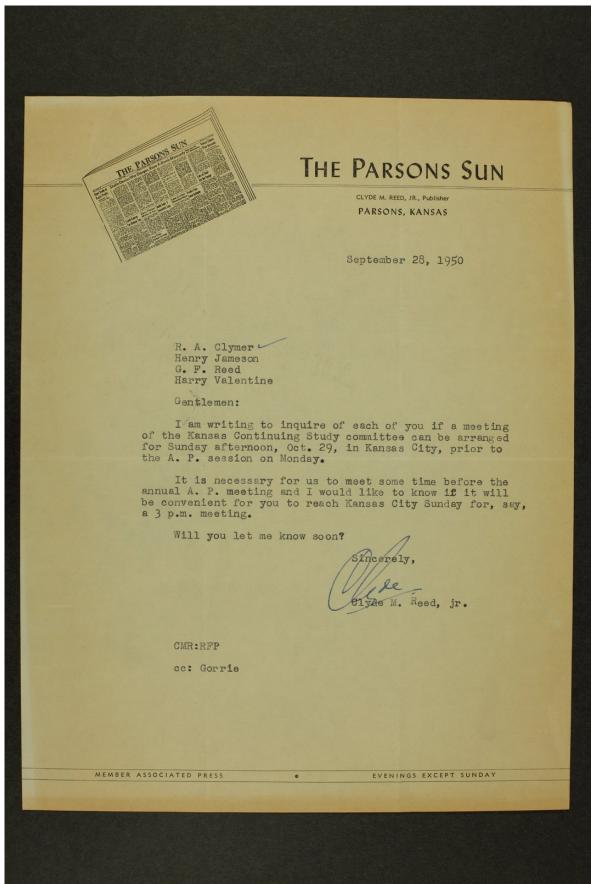
J. Q. Mahaffey, The Gazette and News, Texarkana, U. S. A. Thanks.

"JQ"
Chairman, News Contest
TAPMEA
11-24-47

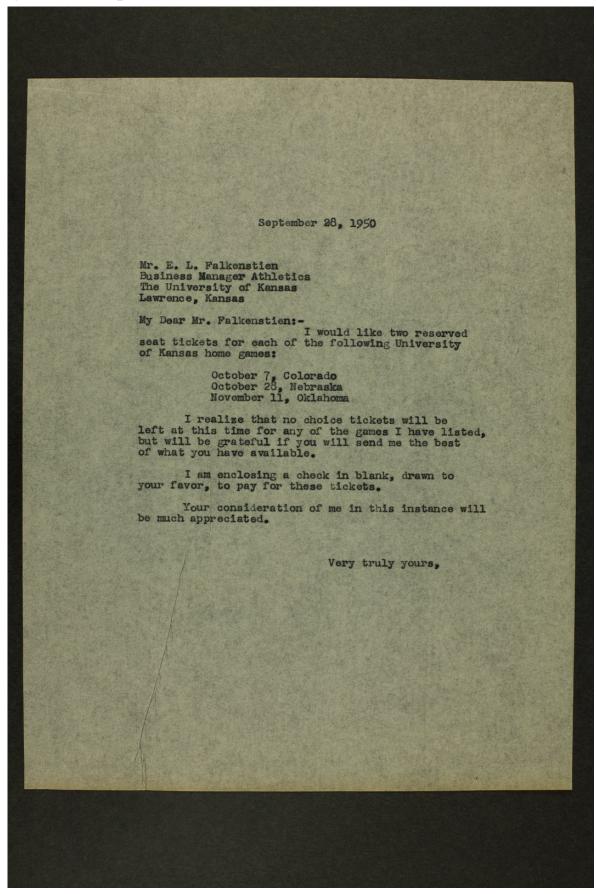




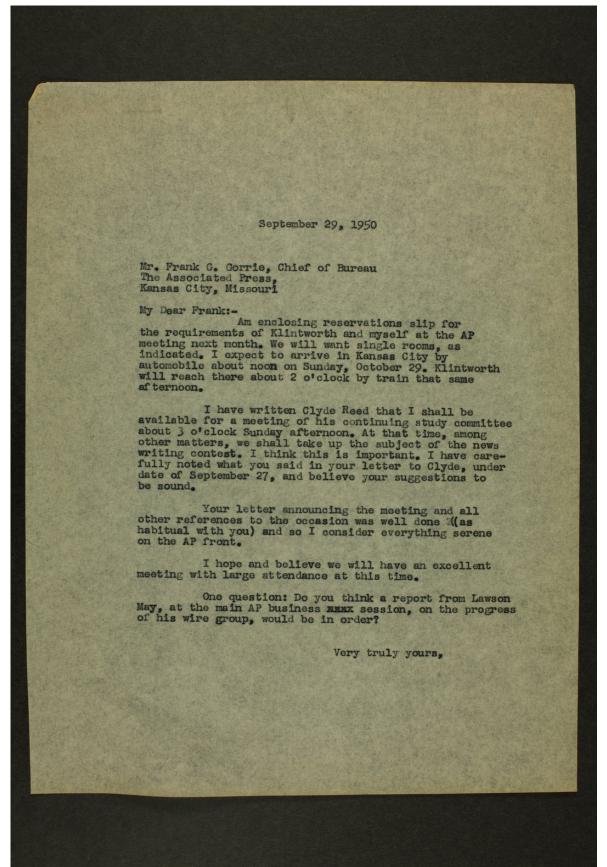




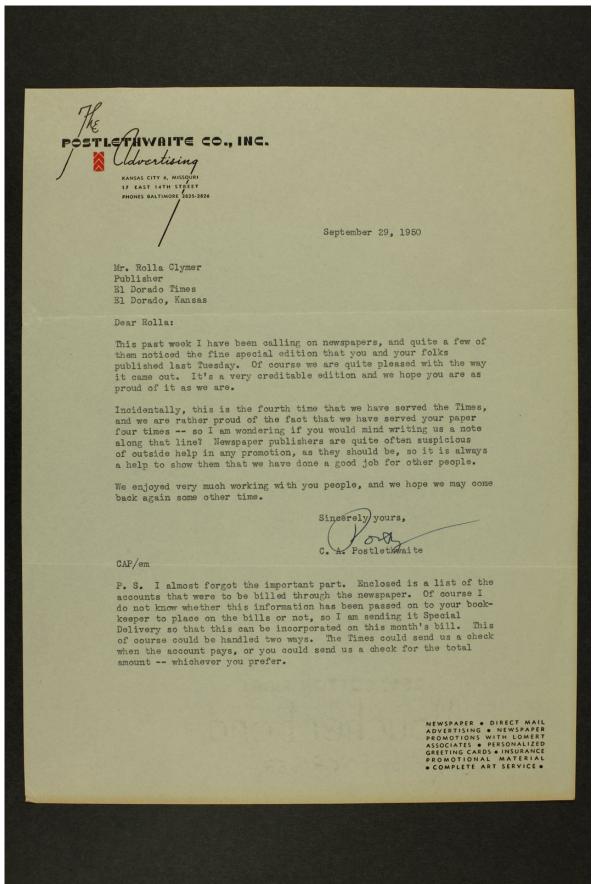














Rolla Clymer correspondence

Sepetmber 29, 1950

Mr. Albert R. Parker Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Parker:-

Dear Mr. Parker:
I fear I am not going to be able to help you much on your inquiries. While I have lived here since early 1918 and am familiar with what happened in the oil fields after that time, I know only by hearsay of what occurred mostly before that time. To my knowledge, no accurate history of oil development in the El Dorado Field has ever been written.

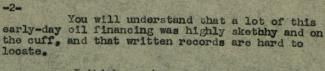
Since I received your letter, I have tried earnestly to get some definite information about the Shumway gushers—with little success. Both the Gypsy Oil and Trapshooters companies drilled on those leases in 1916. The wells came in for huge and spectacular production, but quickly went to water largely because of the inefficient methods employed n those days in drilling them in. The Gypsy company, of course, is a concern that is still operating. The Trapshooters company was a fly-by-night that quickly disappeared from the oil industry scene—yet leaving glamorous memory.

The Trapshooters company was formed by the late Ed O'Brien, of Florence, Kansas, and was composed of then who went to trap shoots together—as the name suggests. O'Brien's brother, Harry, still lives at Florence and is a druggist there. He might be able to help you.

It seems that "Trapshooters" Riley got into the game after the original group had formed their company and, in true promoter style, helped to expand it by sales of shares. I have tried to discover the extent of these later interests—and have had no luck there, either. Two men who were in the Trapshooters crowd still live here—Bernie W. Smith, a retired insurance man; and D. W. (Deacon) Ow, a retired grocer. Smith suffers from heart trouble and was not productive of any helpful data when I talked to him a week ago. Ow is extremely old, meven senile. I have not tried to see him for I am sure it would be no use. Both of these men owned Trapshooters interests of some sort, and neither seems to have made any particular profit out of their participation. Another one of the group is Hugh Faulders, of Wichita, who once lived here. I have lost track of him and cannot give you his address.



Rolla Clymer correspondence



I think you have a wrong impression of the first well drilled in the El Dorado field. The fact is that about 1912 the City of El Dorado appropriated some money by which leases were acquired and a drilling contract made to test out some acreage west of this town which produced gas. You can well imagine the indifferent way in which a municipal and public venture of this sort was carried on.

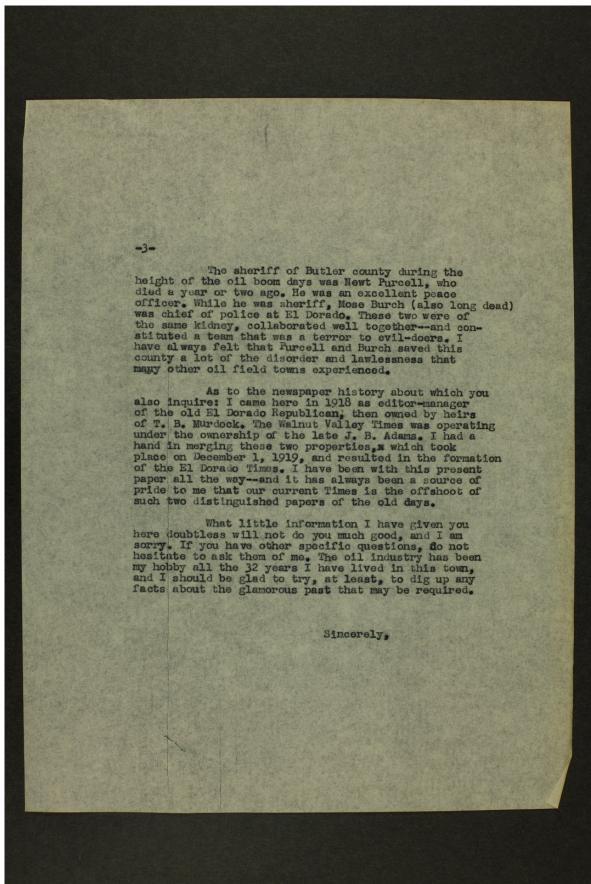
In 1915, the Wichita Natural Gas Company acquired the city's leases, added some more of its own and started drilling what was known as the Stapleton No. 1, near what is now the townsite of Gil Hill. That well hit oil production in the shallow pay at about 540 feet on October 6 of that year--and the discovery of oil in this field dates from that time, though the well was not completed in the deep sand until December of 1915.

The drilling crew on that first well included James Brennan (who still lives here in El Dorado,) Harold Breene, W. J. Obins, F. L. Frankenberger, B. I. McCune and Lisle Harper. I have no idea of the present whereabouts of these men, aside from Brennan. The Wichita Natural company later became a part of the Empire Gas & Fuel company, and still later a subsidiary of Cities Service. The recently-issued report of the Kansas State Geological Survey says that "the El Dorado field, with cumulative production at the end of 1949 of 201,583,990 barrels is the most productive field in Kansas." It may further interest you to know that during 1949, Butler county with 85,668 producing acres and total production of 6,258,017 barrels, still stood in fifth position in among the oil counties of Kansas--and that after 34 years!

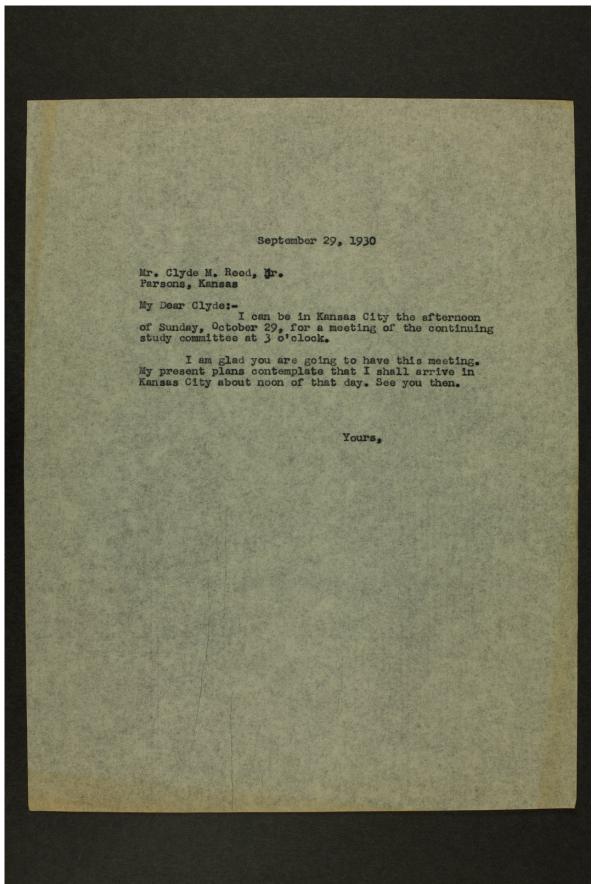
The story you relate about the first well being discovered by accident is all false, in my opinion.

I also regret that I cannot verify the incident which happened at Augusta in the summer of 1916. I know nothing about that tale. I was a friend of Bill Peel, however. He was an Augusta banker and was later treasurer of Butler county. He is now dead.

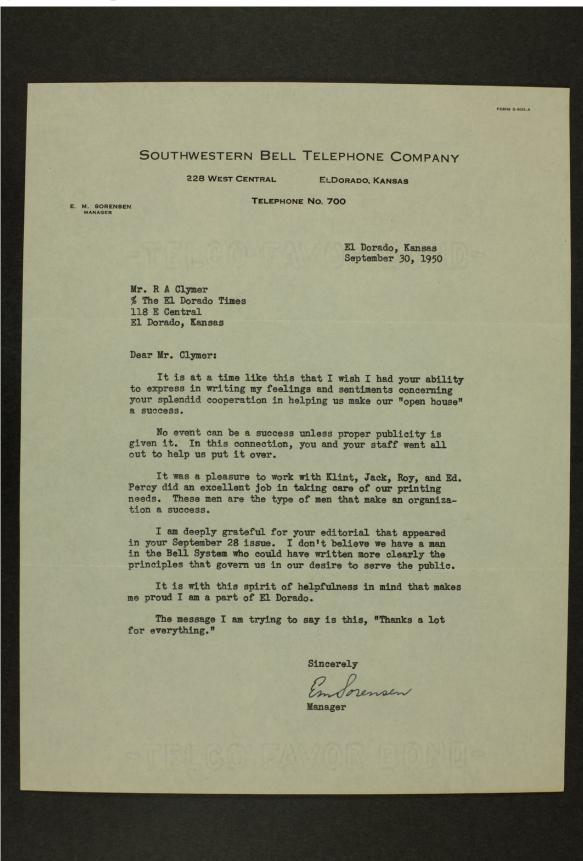




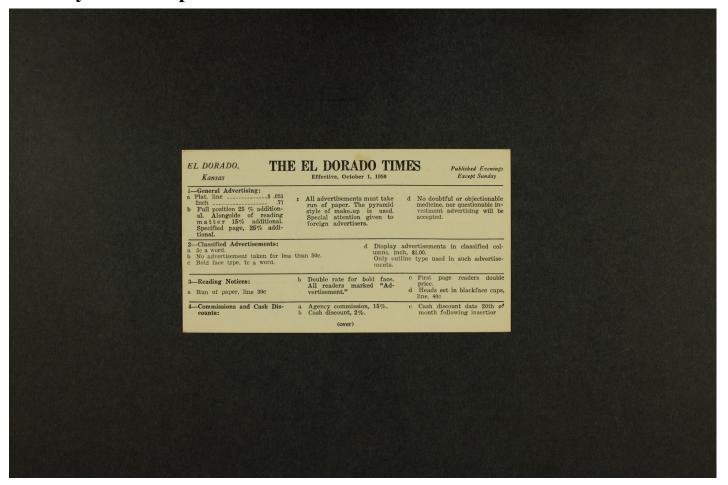




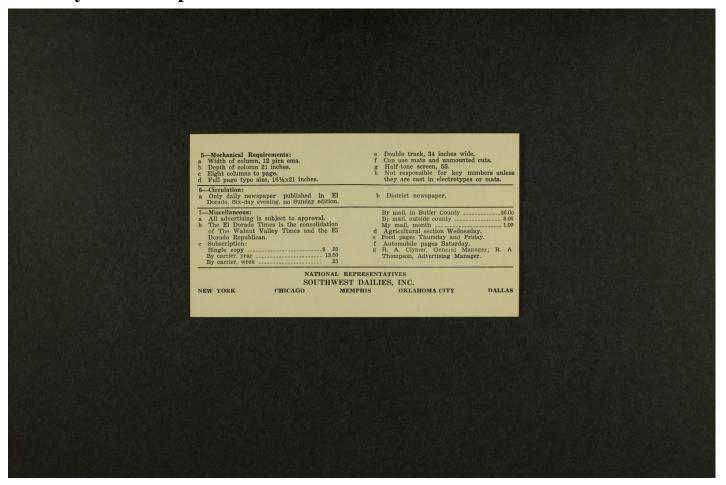




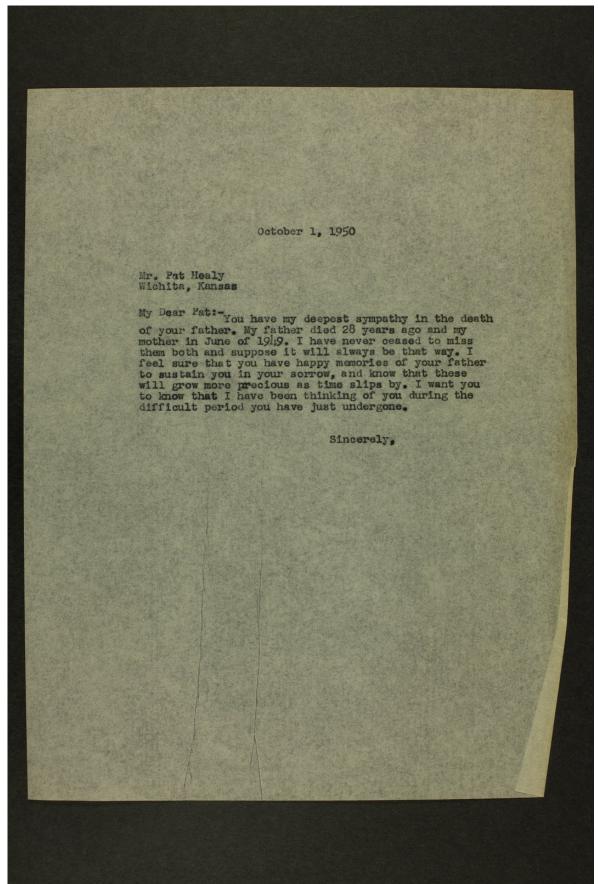




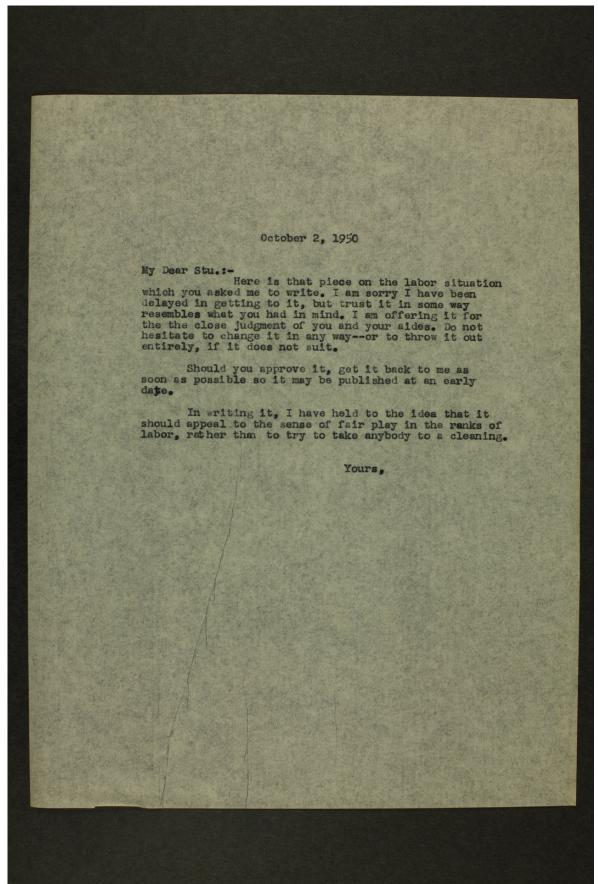




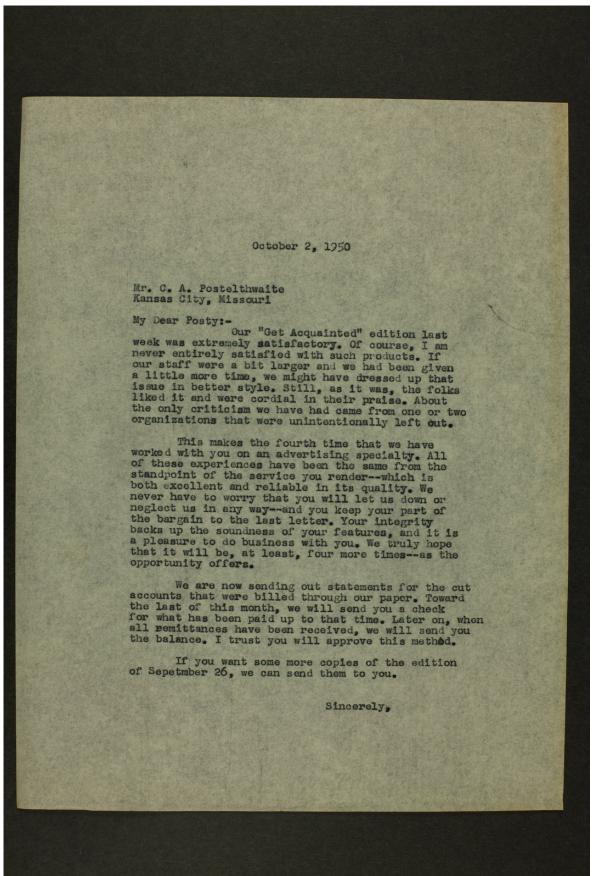






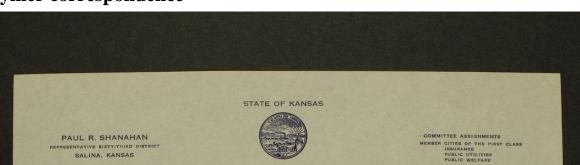








Rolla Clymer correspondence



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 2, 1950

Mr. Rolla Clymer Eldorado, Kansas

Dear Rolla,

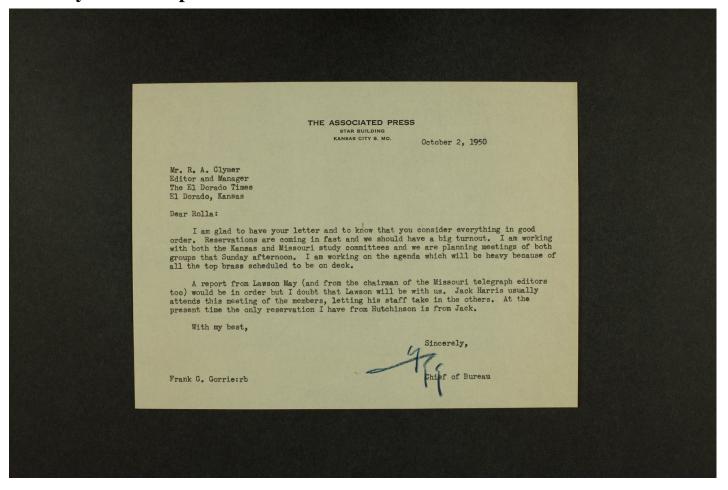
I am sending the following biographical sketch for your information and use. Any support which you give me will certainly be most appreciated. I was born in Saline County, March 1, 1899, a member of a large pioneer family which has lived in Kansas since 1870. I was raised on a farm, attended rural school, Salina High School and Kansas Wesleyan University. After leaving college, I was engaged in the sporting goods business and became active in Young Republican politics. I also was active in the American Legion baseball program and helped to promote other youth activities.

In 1937 I was appointed under sheriff of Saline County where I served four years; following this I was elected Sheriff for two terms, from 1941 to 1945. I was elected president of the Kansas Peace Officers Association, served as chairman of the Saline County civilian defense and was a member of the U. S. O. Board. I was elected to the Kansas Legislature where I have served the past six years serving as majority floor leader in the 1949 session. I have been a member of the legislative council the past four years and have served on several special committees in the council. I live in Salina and am now engaged in the Insurance business.

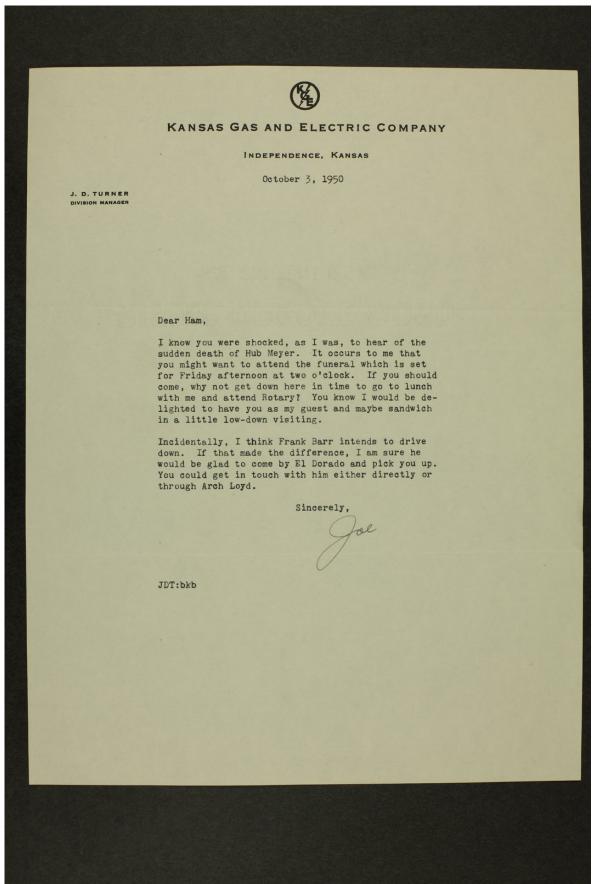
Very Sincerely,

Paul R. Shanahan

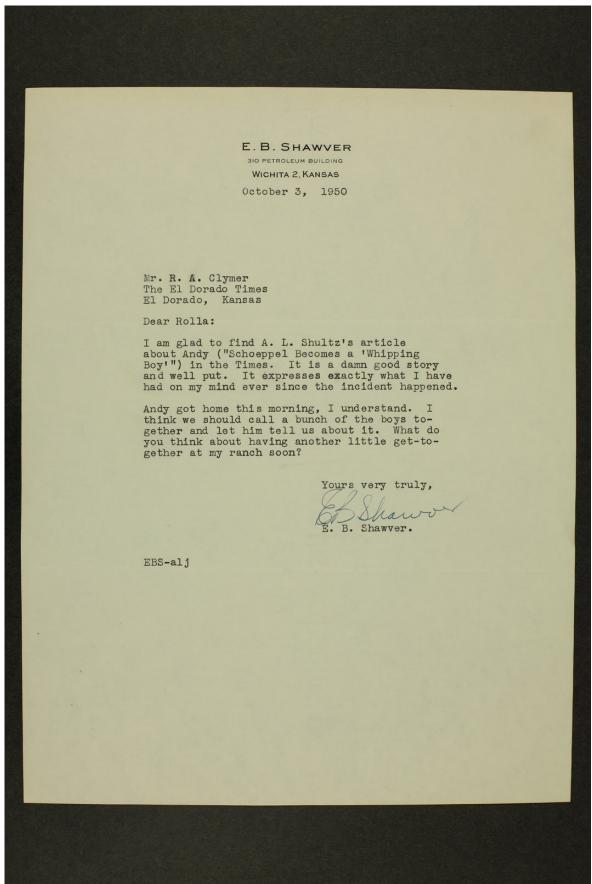




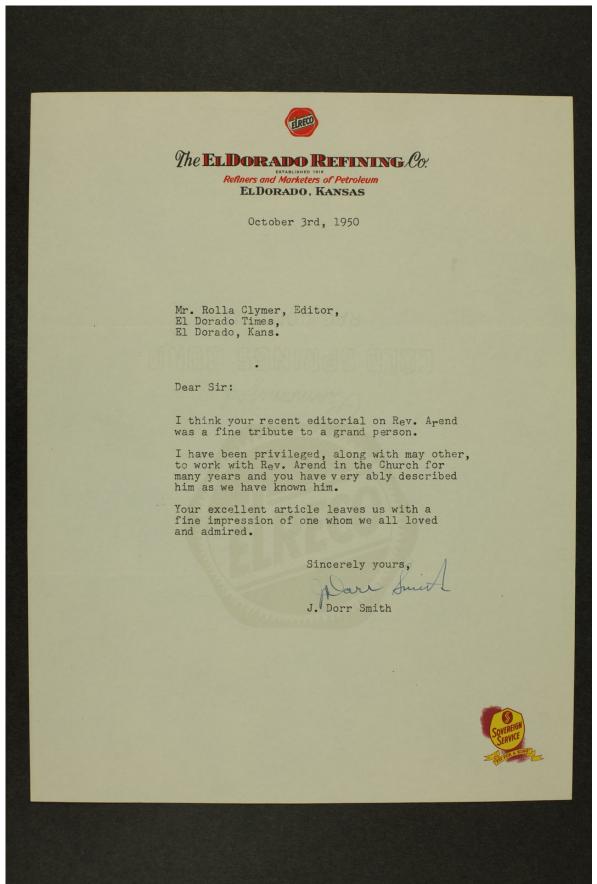




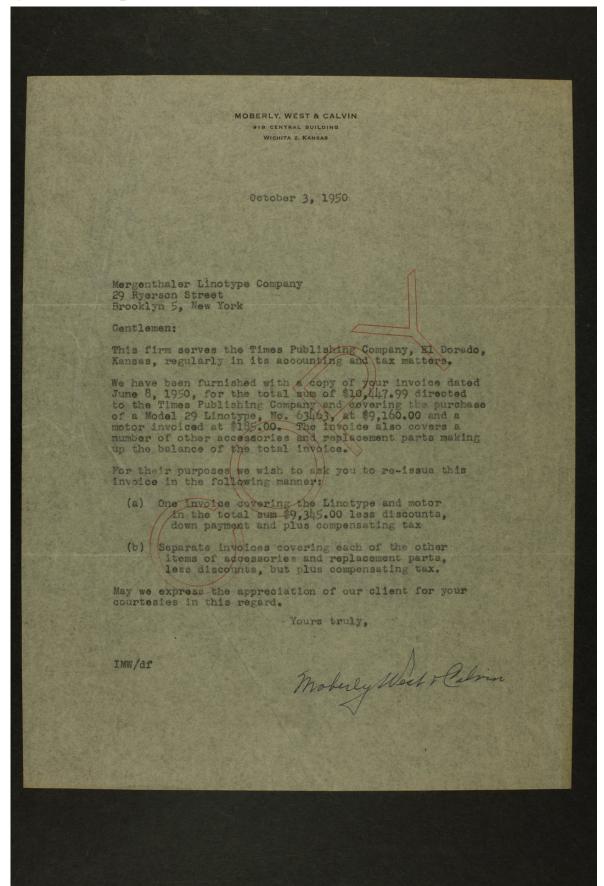




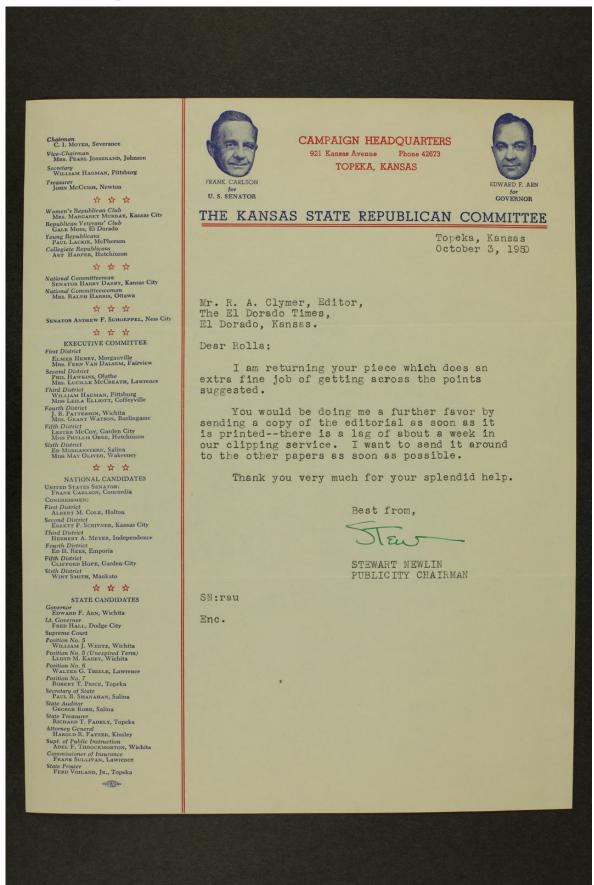




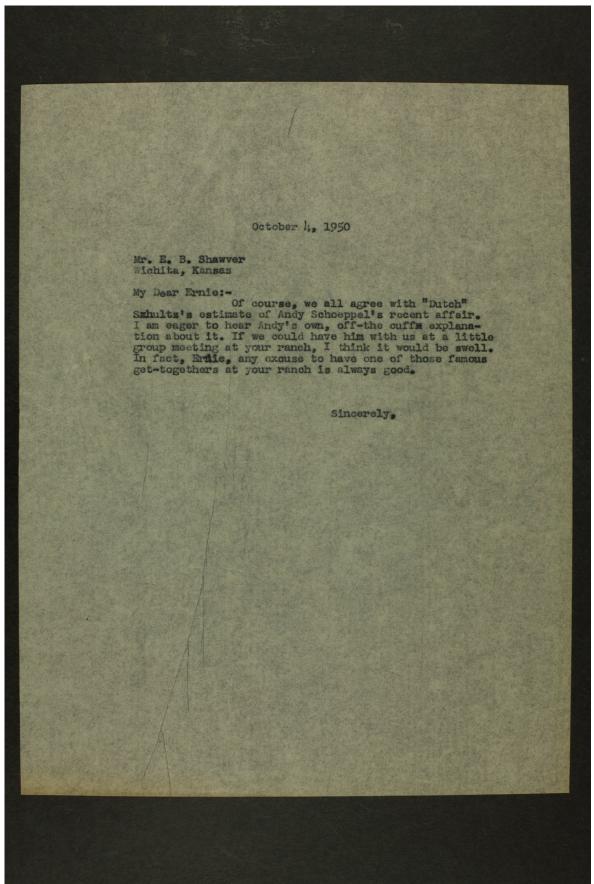




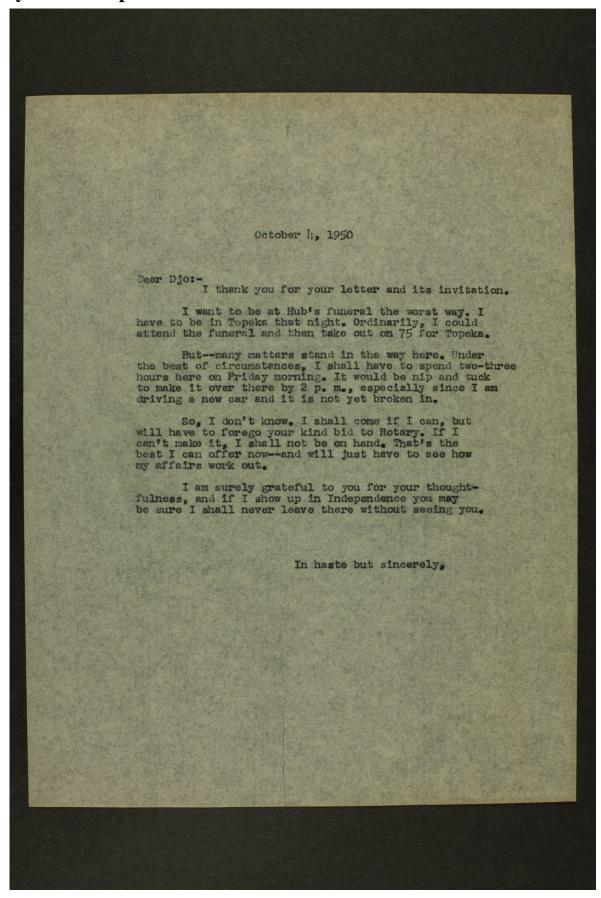






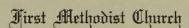








Rolla Clymer correspondence



LE ROY F. AREND, Minister El Borado, Kansas

October 5, 1950

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

Dear Rolla:

The Official Board of The First Methodist Church of El Dorado, in official session, voted to have me send a letter of appreciation for your most excellent editorial regarding Reverend Arend and his service in our church and community.

I am sure that compliments of your editorials are never as frequent as they are deserved and I assure you that it is with greatest of pleasure that I can personally comply with the request of the board in thanking you most heartily for your fine editorial and your other past favors for our church.

Kind personal regards,

J. H. Johnson Dr. J. H. Johnson, Chairman Official Board First Methodist Church El Dorado, Kansas

JHJ/vc



