

## Hard to make peace after primary battles?

Kansas Republicans are making noises about trying to make peace after some bloody primary battles.

While we expect the party to pull together this fall, some of the wounds will take longer to heal than others.

Perhaps the nastiest fight was between Rep. Jerry Moran of Hays and Rep. Todd Tiahrt of Goddard for the open U.S. Senate seat vacated by Sam Brownback, the GOP candidate for governor.

This one degenerated into bitter name-calling before it was over, with each candidate's staff issuing blistering attacks on the other guy. Mr. Tiahrt's campaign tried to use ancient votes from Mr. Moran's days in the state Senate more than 15 years ago to prove he was not a "true conservative."

Dedicated groups including Kansas Right to Life backed Mr. Tiahrt despite the fact that both had sterling records on the group's issues. You'd think the group would have done its cause more good by sitting this one out, and in the general election, you'd have to believe its leaders will back Mr. Moran over a Democrat.

Alliances among right-wing "social conservatives" such as Mr. Brownback, Right to Life, Mr. Tiahrt and others are strong, apparently, and Mr. Moran is seen as too independent, not "one of them."

Still, when the shouting dies down and he's the new senator, who will they have to turn to in Washington? Even the new governor will have to go hat in hand when he wants help in the Capital. And Mr. Moran is a conservative, though more in the mold of Bob Dole than Mr. Brownback.

So Sen. Moran should survive with little damage. Our bet is that Mr. Tiahrt will stay in Washington and become a highly paid lobbyist for conservative causes or maybe the aerospace companies he was so fond of.

He'll live, and live well.

And the governor? Maybe he can trade a few tips for a hearing with the freshman senator. He did spend 14 years in the Senate.

Out West, the six-way campaign for the House seat Mr. Moran left to run for the Senate generated its own heat. Candidates tried to outdo each other at calling themselves conservative. State Sen. Tim Huelskamp won handily, maybe because he'd proven over the years that he was the most conservative.

Sen. Jim Barnett has his Emporia-based Senate seat to keep him warm next winter. Other candidates did not fare so well.

Tracy Mann, a young businessman who lives in Salina but made much of his roots in Quinter, took the brunt of the last-minute attacks. In his case, the charges stuck.

Mann stood accused of being a carpetbagger, having moved back to the district only last year from Johnson County, and being on record as having given \$500 to the Senate campaign of former Rep. Jim Slattery, a liberal Democrat, against Republican Pat Roberts just two years ago.

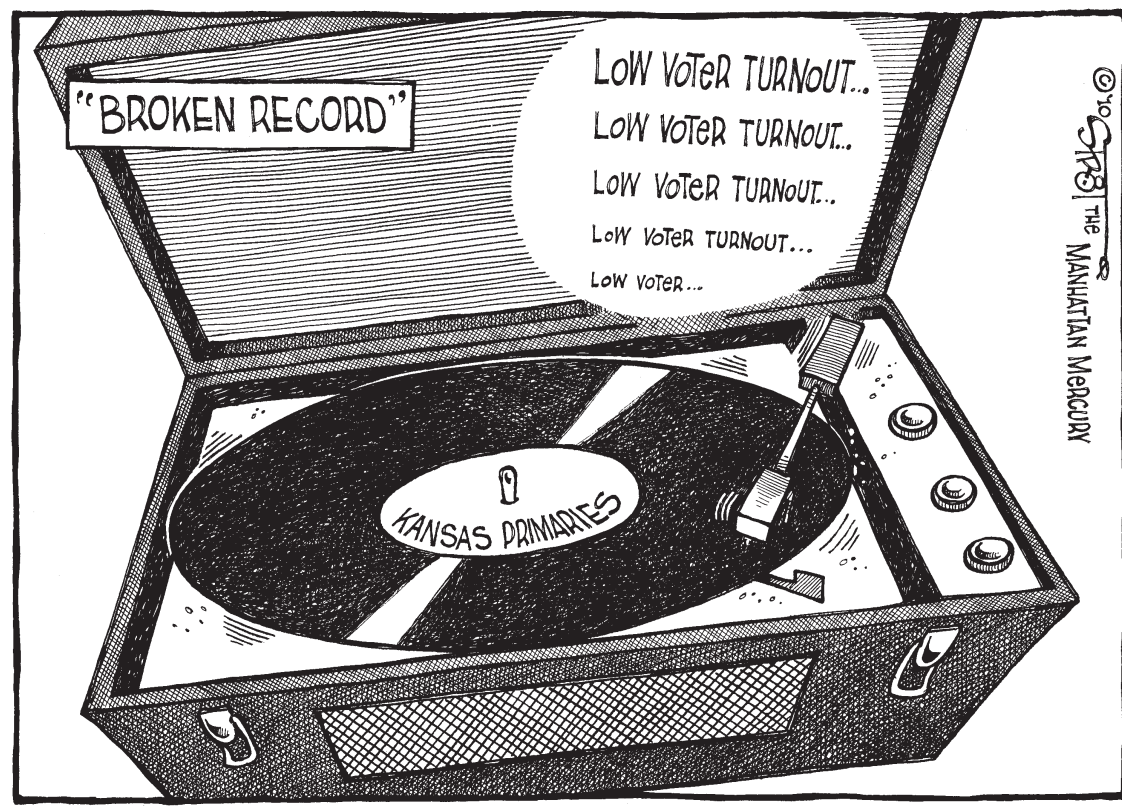
There's nothing illegal about either, of course, but if you're going to run in a Republican primary, those things count against you. We'd be willing to bet that's why he lost.

Many other races involved smaller fights, some mostly clean, others not so. The Kansas Republican party generally survives these. It will this year, too.

Mr. Moran and Mr. Brownback, leading the ticket, both have proven they can win elections and appeal to a large spectrum of voters. Both should win handily in November.

Their positions to the right and farther to the right will not hurt them. Voters will see them as good men trying to do the right thing for the state.

Some of the others will be trying to figure out what happened for years. — *Steve Haynes*



## Moran a favorite of Bob Dole



### Along the Sappa

By Steve Haynes  
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Five years ago, I had the great good fortune to spend an hour and a half with Bob Dole, the former Kansas senator and Republican presidential candidate.

Folks in western Kansas know Bob, of course, because he was their congressman for eight years before he was elected to represent the whole state in the U.S. Senate in 1968. I first remember meeting the former war hero in my folks' living room when he was campaigning, and Dad was the Republican county chairman.

He and Dad had been county attorneys about the same time, though Dad only served two terms, in Lyon County, Bob four in Russell.

With others from the KU College Republican Club, I hit the primary circuit that summer. Dole rallies, I remember, were tame by college standards; some candidates had drinks, but Dole served pineapple juice.

Bob became a fixture in the Senate, ran for vice president, then president, serving twice as majority leader. In 1974, he offered me a job, asking me to come to Washington as his press aide.

I loved my job in Kansas City, we had a new baby and Cynthia and I had just bought a house. We had no plans to move to Washington, and I told the senator so. There would be days later when I wondered how life would have been different, but I never had any ambition to be anything but a newspaper man.

That day in 2005, Senator Dole was speaking to our group in Washington, and it's customary to assign someone who knows each speaker to greet and escort him or her. I was primed to go up and look for him about 11 o'clock, but about 9:30, someone tugged my sleeve and said,

"Bob Dole is here."

They had shown him to a holding room, a small side chamber where speakers can wait for their time on stage. It had a table and a few comfortable chairs, blonde wood and red upholstery as I remember. He had one young man with him.

We sat and chatted. Bob asked about my mother, who had been gone several years by then. They both had been born in 1923.

We talked a little about the old times in Kansas. Bob has a talent for summing things up in few words, often marked with a biting humor.

He wanted to know who he was following on the dais. I told him Tom Tancredo, the former congressman from Colorado, who was on all the talk shows that year and later ran, briefly, for president.

"Ah, the immigration guy," Dole said. "No bullets."

It was terse, on target, typically Dole. I asked him what he thought of the guy then holding his old seat in Congress, Rep. Jerry Moran of Hays.

"He's doing a good job," the senator said. "We've got to find a way to get him into the Senate."

That was two to three years before Jerry himself admitted it might be a good idea. For years he maintained that he was happy just to be in Congress. He later said he came to realize that he could do more as a senator, and when Sam Brownback

honored his campaign promise and stepped down after two terms, there was his chance.

Jerry Moran lacks the war-hero aura that preceded Bob Dole, but the two have a lot in common. Both have the knack for appealing to the entire Republican party. Both are solid fiscal conservatives. Neither was afraid to buck the party leadership when it suited them, though of course, as national chairman and later Senate majority leader, Dole became the party leadership.

His speech that day was a riot, from his opening gambit:

"I know you're all hoping I brought some free samples," he said with a grin, knowing the audience was more than familiar with his Viagra commercials on television. But he switched clients on them.

"It's hard to carry a lot of Pepsi in your pockets," he teased.

That was the Bob Dole I remembered from those days on the campaign trail. I always wished they'd let that Bob Dole run for president. He might have won.

Anyway, it looks like Jerry Moran will wind up in the Senate now. He's a good man, he has the best interests of Kansas at heart, and he'll do well.

So, Bob, I guess we can cross that one off our lists. I suspect you had more to do with it than I did anyway.

## Now for the rest of the story

At last! The rest of the story.

Remember when I wrote about giving the three French girls a ride? Well, I finally got word about the remainder of their hitchhiking adventure across America. I guess they had tried to reply to my e-mail, but as usual, my mailbox was full and I didn't get their message.

Marion, the spokesman for the trio, wrote me a lovely letter detailing how they got to Denver the same day I gave them a ride. After a couple days' rest, she said, they took a bus out of the city to Buena Vista, Colo., and got off the bus out in the middle of nowhere. Luckily, they caught several rides and made it on to Las Vegas in a couple of days. She said they never had to wait as long for a ride in either Colorado or Nevada as they did in Kansas. Wonder what that says about Kansans?

She said they enjoyed Las Vegas but didn't elaborate. Perhaps what happens in Vegas really does stay in Vegas. They flew from Vegas to New York, where they spent two weeks before flying back to France. Marion said her mother was glad she didn't know what they were doing or she would have worried. That kind of concern knows no geographic bounds.

Marion said she showed my



### Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts  
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column to her mother so she would know they met some nice people during their travels. Sure glad I fell into the "nice" category.

They were lovely young girls, so full of life and adventure. Still, I'm not sure I would want my granddaughters to try the same thing. But, if they do try something like that, I want to be like Marion's mom: don't tell me until it's over.

—ob—

I'm trying another new recipe for our noon meal. It's a beef-noodle bake containing tomato sauce, cream cheese and sour cream. Anything with cream cheese has to be good. Right?

Jim is always willing (if not eager) to try whatever I set before him. Sometimes, he laments, "Why do you have to keep trying something new? You make such good (fill in the blank). Don't mess with a good thing."

Last night, I tried "Orange Spice Carrots." It has a brown sugar glaze with nutmeg and cloves over steamed carrots. I'm afraid that one went to the chickens.

One of my favorite things to do is to read and clip recipes. I'll never live long enough to try them all but, I'm gonna try.

Anyone for portabello burgers and lemon-basil pasta?

### From the Bible

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.

Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Luke 12:6-7 (NIV)

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## Will the carnival run at 2011 fair?

To the Editor:

What a ride! My last three years as a member of the Amusement Authority board can best be summed up that way. We came on board knowing nothing of what was ahead of us, struggled through the first year, learned, became more confident the second year, learned more, and were actually able to enjoy the third, and our last, year.

We made a lot of improvements, updates and upgrades. We were excited to see the groups, organizations and volunteers continue to increase and help out during fair week. We were proud to be a part of one of the best achievements this county has developed on its own over several decades. We really appreciated all the pats on the back and people who let us know they appreciated what we were doing.

That's the good news. Here's the bad. Over the last three years, we have lost track of the number of people we have asked to be a part of the Amusement Authority. We've done all we can think to do to get people to join us. We have run the carnival short handed, and only by the grace of God, and a few spouses and good friends, have we been able to pull together.

We weren't able to put the rides away on Sunday because we did

### Letters to the Editor

not have enough manpower, (thank you, Shannon Addleman, for being there), so we have to schedule another work day and pray someone shows up. I'm thinking if this 50-plus woman can be there working, surely others more capable could show up for a few hours and help, but that's just my opinion.

We were appointed to a three-year term. Our three years are up this January. We keep having people ask us if we are really going to quit. We are not quitting. We made a commitment for three years, and we have done all we can do in that three years. This is how things stand, in a nutshell. Three people have joined in the last two years. The Amusement Authority needs 12. If nine people do not join by January, there may be no carnival in 2011. I hope that is clear, but if not, let me repeat it. If nine people do not join, there will be no Amusement Authority, and there will be no carnival.

How can we let that happen? Being on this board means going to a few meetings after the first of the year to set goals and determine a time line for projects. Toward late spring, the meetings are more

frequent, depending on the goals and work to be done. There are only really two to three months of meetings, work nights, and of course, fair week.

Is this community really going to let this go? As I was walking around the fair this year, I noticed dozens, if not hundreds, of people perfectly capable to do what we have done. Here is that opportunity for all of you.

In closing, I just want to say that being on the Amusement Authority has been one of the most worthwhile projects I have ever been involved in. I have worked with and met some of the greatest people around, and I am proud of what this group has accomplished in such a short time. I know in my heart that there are people out there that will pick up the torch and keep this great tradition going well into the future.

God bless all those that have helped us... it's been our privilege to serve.

Judy G. Scott, Oberlin Amusement Authority board president

## Former residents thank the fair volunteers

To the Editor:

Another wonderful fair week has come and gone. My family wants to thank all of you who worked and

volunteered endless hours to make this possible.

It's amazing how everyone pulls together to make this positive event

happen. Keep up the good work.

Roxie Erickson and family  
Manhattan

## Don't we respect our country anymore?

To the Editor:

I'm on the Decatur County Fair Board, so I worked Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the ticket booth at the fair. I saw something that really disturbed me.

When the National Anthem came over the loud speakers, very few

people stopped what they were doing to show respect. There were people walking around, talking to each other, talking on cell phones. On Saturday, the motorcycles kept going around the track and the announcer talked through part of the anthem.

Also, the tape of the anthem had a glitch in it that played all three nights that I was there. Is there no respect in rural America for our country anymore?

Linda Bunney,  
Norcatur