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Researched and compiled by Amira Coleman, L&T Reporter



1963

City commission faces rumors of liquor running, gambling

There was quite a fuss back in 1963 about the Liberal City Commission, but people were loathe to actually say what they were upset about. The meeting that had been called to hear complaints from Liberal citizens had been canceled and then rescheduled. The Times featured a story that took up almost half of the front page to try to untangle the mess. It concerned a court hearing with the city commission and about 150 Liberal citizens who attended.

The three men who had sparked the whole ordeal told the city commission that they wouldn't say what they had talked to the Kansas State Attorney about. Apparently, these three had gone up to Topeka and told the state attorney something that was interpreted as a complaint.

The city commission called the meeting to get everything out in the open, but then, the meeting was canceled. After that, a hearing was scheduled. The original complainants didn't say in detail what they were upset about, just that their conversation involved liquor, gambling and the police chief. The town was buzzing with anticipation towards what the problem was exactly.

The week of Oct. 7 was fire prevention week, and the Times had many small features over the week to help the community become aware, starting with a fire that killed six valuable horses, including a blue ribbon fair colt belonging to Virgil Waugh's granddaughter. A \$1,200 stallion was inflicted with fatal burns when the fire consumed a horse barn that belonged to Waugh, and four Appaloosas died in the actual fire. Two other horses had to be put down a couple days later. The horses had been shut in the barn, of course, and had no way to escape the fire that brought about their deaths.

Liberal High School announced that it was beginning an adult education program, and would offer night classes in 11 different subjects. Donald W. Hall, assistant principal at LHS, was in charge of the program. Some of the classes being offered were refresher typing, beginning or refresher shorthand, beginning sewing and beginning Latin.

Three cars and a semi truck collided in an accident, just south of the Third and Kansas intersection. It drew a large crowd to the downtown area and hindered the Thursday afternoon traffic. The semi was going south in the left lane when the car in front of it stopped suddenly. James R. Johnson, swerved to avoid a collision with the stopped car, apparently, and then the same car collided with two other cars parked along Kansas. Thankfully, the wreck didn't result in any fatalities or injuries.

The 1963 Redskin football team was finally healed up and at full strength just in time for their game against the Ulysses Tigers on the Mahuron Field. Guard Lynn Thomas had finally recovered from his injured knee and was finally ready to play after sitting on the sidelines of the first three games.

Wes Ready, whose position was not stated, said his ankle was completely healed, and he was ready for action. Junior halfback Don Beckwith was getting his first starting assignment of his varsity career, and fullback Denny Cox was up for quite a challenge, as his reputation for running and passing 319 yards against the Dodge City Demons the previous week preceded him.

