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Researched and compiled by Amira Coleman, L&T Reporter



Man with broken hip snowed in for week before getting help

1964

Liberal was experiencing extreme weather back in 1964, and an 88-year-old man was snowed in for a week at his farm. Unfortunately, he had broken his hip, and was unable to get into town to have surgery done.

Mr. John Burnett lived with his brother, Charles Burnett, in a home on a little-traveled road 13 miles outside of town. Neither Burnett nor his brother noticed how severe his injury was when he fell, and apparently, he didn't feel pain, despite being bedfast.

The elderly brothers were unable to summon aid because they did not own a telephone. After a while, friends and neighbors began to be concerned about the two, and Mr. Claude Scott (the Burnett brothers' neighbor) used his tractor to open the road to their house.

Once the road was cleared, and the injury explained, Burnett was attended to by a doctor, and was taken in to Epworth Hospital to have his hip cared for.

Several Beechcraft Musketeer airplanes were scheduled to fly over Liberal, then postponed due to extreme weather in Wichita, where they were going to depart. Beechcraft decided to have the disassembled planes brought to Liberal and assembled. The airplanes would then fly a demonstration over Kansas Avenue. Apparently, the same airplanes were to be manufactured in Liberal in the future.

The sheriff's office received good news from Council Bluffs, Iowa. Mr. Edmond Gallaway, 23, an auto repair shop operator was taken into custody.

Galloway had skipped town in a hurry after writing worthless checks in Liberal, and apparently, there were 15 different warrants being held against him on felony and misdemeanor checks.

Sheriff Smith told the Times that he was sure there were more checks that merchants had yet to turn in.

A pair of Liberal teenagers were hospitalized on a Sunday morning after their car rammed into a standing freight car at the Clay Avenue railroad crossing. Both William F. Briscoe, 18, the driver, and Don G. Young, 19, the passenger, suffered from head lacerations.

The vehicle was driving south on Clay when Briscoe said he applied the brakes as soon as he saw the freight stopped on the crossing. Their car laid down 10 feet of skid marks before hitting the boxcar and demolishing the front of the car.

The train was outbound from Liberal, with H. U. Dietz as engineer, according to the sheriff's office.

Apparently, Liberal's Sheriff Smith was a gracious host, because his guests just kept coming back.

Charles Price, 26, was arrested for car theft and in jail for two months. After only one day of freedom, Price was caught in the very act that put him in jail. Price was attempting to steal a 1959 Ford from Forrest Cole at 324 N. Grant Ave.

Like Price, Clarence R. White was also having trouble staying out of trouble. Two days after finishing out his time he was serving for check charges, two felony checks were reported to the sheriff's office. White got as far as Perryton, Texas, before being returned to Liberal and put back into jail.