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Researched and compiled by A.J. Coleman, L&T Reporter



1963

## **City commission reprimands police chief**

Much like the NYC police are getting criticized for the "Stop and frisk" policy and how the Florida police were criticized for the Trayvon Martin case, the Liberal Police Chief was in deep with the Liberal City Commission in 1963.

"Police Chief keeps job, gets reprimand, probation period," read the headline of the Southwest Daily Times.

Police Chief Ralph M. Smith was publicly reprimanded by Mayor Charles Brisendine for past

personal conduct. He was retained as chief on a probationary basis.

In a prepared statement read in city commission meeting, and concurred in by the other four members of the commission, the mayor recommended to the city manager that the chief be retained in his present capacity taking into consideration his past record of effective service and his capabilities for the position. This decision was to be reviewed at the end of the six-month period or before then if the city manager chose to bring it before the commission.

Also recommended was that a manual of police department procedures, policies and personnel standards be formulated by the city manager, chief and a designated member of the commission to be submitted to the commission for approval.

The police chief was reprimanded for events involving his the personal affairs. He was also disciplined for matters in the past; his performance since that time had not reflected the standard of a police chief.

“Students needing enrollment change should do so now,” read the headline of the Southwest Daily Times. As students in Liberal are now getting ready to go back to school, students in ‘63 were getting ready to enroll.

Liberal High School Principal Horace Mali suggested that “those who made enrollment schedules last spring and find adjustments or changes necessary, should appear at the office to do so. Schedule cards are being processed. Time for changes will not be available during enrollment and card pick up dates nor prior to the opening of school.”

“Cash stolen from Mode O’Day,” read the headline of the Southwest Daily Times. Officers in Liberal were continuing the search for three people suspected of being involved in a cash theft at the Mode O’Day store in Liberal. The search started in the early afternoon when officers received a report from Alberta Ferguson at the store that approximately \$30 in cash was stolen.

She told officers that a tall red head “Negro” woman came into the store and said she had a package on layaway at the store. When the clerk went to the back of the store to check, she

spotted the women leaving through the front door. She then missed the money in the cash register.

It turned out that several Liberal stores were hit by the same women and two men who were accomplices in the crime spree.