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function get_style13777 () { return "none"; } function end13777_ () {  
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From the archives of Liberal's hometown newspaper since 1886.

Researched and compiled by Amira Coleman, L&T Reporter



1963

Rattlesnake hunters and runaway teens

Redskin football back in the '60s may sound less brutal than football now, but as the Redskins' fullback Dennis Cox found out, the risk for injury was still imminent. Cox had been playing a "workhorse role on both offense and defense," and ended up in Epworth Hospital. The physicians were still in the process of finding out exactly what the injury consisted of, but they did know that after playing the whole game, Cox noticed pain in his neck after unwinding from the game, and was admitted to the hospital at around 11 p.m. The Redskins had lost their game to Ulysses 7-0.

Liberal hosted the 7th Annual Sectional Bridge Tournament, and drew in bridge fans from as far away as Oklahoma City and Pampa, Texas. The tournament lasted three days, and opened in the Warren Hotel. A large photo showcased the succulent, but untouched refreshments being served, as the attendees were immersed in their matches.

Some of the Masters Pairs were Mrs. Frank Roach and Mrs. Greely Warner, of Pampa; Mrs. G. M. Taylor and Mrs. L. T. Child, of Hutchinson, and Mrs. C. D. Sorrels and Mrs. C. R. Hutchison, of Liberal.

Two teenage girls were reported missing after taking Mrs. Donnalita Martin's car at around 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13, 1963. Their parents were the ones who reported them missing.

Their names were Janet Carol Crawford, 16, who was wearing blue jean shorts, and a yellow sweatshirt Kuranne Sue Martin, 16, also wearing blue jean shorts and a dark striped blouse. They were thought to have had a full tank of gas and \$8 in their possession when they disappeared.

A 3-year-old boy was admitted to the hospital for treatment and observation of facial lacerations after being hit by a car.

Officers reported that Jimmy Cox, son of James Cox, ran into the path of a moving vehicle being driven by Mrs. Ethel Preedy, at the intersection of Elm and Harvard, at around 6:30 p.m. A neighbor, Virgil Bailey, then rushed Jimmy to the hospital.

A rattlesnake hunter left a note on the door of Bob Hatcher's pickup truck about 15 miles north of Liberal on Hatcher's farmland. The note read; "I just captured two rattlers out of the post pile on the north side of the corral. Thank you. I spend my Sundays in the Fall hunting rattlesnakes and until now I haven't been able to locate a good place."

The hunter, C. L. Smith, asked if he could return, and told Hatcher where he could find the two snakes Smith had already caught. A box of .22 rifle cartridges was included with the note, which were explained by a "P.S." saying; "These are yours with my compliments because I didn't need them. I got the snakes alive."

Hatcher did indeed go and see the snakes, which were securely confined in Smith's car, outside of Chaffin Hardware in Liberal. The Times does not report whether Smith was allowed to return.

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