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1964

From vandalism to hit-and-runs, 1964 started off with a bang

School had just been starting up again back in 1964, and apparently, people were not feeling kindly towards academics.

Repeated acts of vandalism had been reported at the Catholic school construction site at 15th Street and Calhoun Avenue. As reported to the Times, someone had slashed tires on an electric welding machine, ripped wires out and placed sawdust in the engine. Also, wires were reported cut to a pipe-cutting machine and a plate glass window in the extreme northwest corner of the building was broken out.

No one had any idea who the vandals were, or their reasons for such unkind acts towards those constructing the school and the site itself.

An action for recovery of money and appointment of a receiver to operate a private club, Doc's Ole Poodle Dog Club, was filed in Liberal's District court. Don Murry, the proprietor of the club, was four months in arrears on the installment payments to Strobel Enterprises, the owner of the club. The proprietor in question, Murry, was given a notice to terminate and vacate the premises, according to the petition, which was disregarded by Murry, who also admitted to not being able to operate the club at a profit since taking over the management. Strobel aimed to hand over operation of the club to Vada L. Williamson.

A new running track was needed by LHS in 1964, but, apparently, there were no plans to replace it. The board of education attempted to negotiate a contract for a track with the money they had available, but were unsuccessful, and there were no plans to call a special meeting or reopen the bidding. The only bids were rejected as too high at a bid session the previous week. Board members decided to attempt to negotiate with the low bidder, Carlile Asphalt Co. of Liberal. Bidding later in the year was a possibility for the board of education, but a new track was officially not in the current construction plans.

Police were continuing a search for a hit-and-run driver who struck a 12-year-old boy at Blue Bonnet Courts on a Tuesday afternoon. Matthew Randle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Randle, suffered bruises of the shoulder and ankle when he was hit and knocked down by a car as he crossed a driving lane at Blue Bonnet Courts. The Randle boy was reported to have been walking home from school when he was hit in the road in front of Apartment 320. Randle was well enough to give police officers a description of the car that struck him.

The week of Jan. 19 to 25, 1964, was declared "Junior Chamber of Commerce Week." Mayor Charles Brisendine asked local organizations to cooperate in the observance during his announcement. He said that "the purpose of the week is to focus the attention on young men and the work they (were) doing and to emphasize that the Liberal Jaycees (did) an outstanding job in the fields of leadership training and community development."

A Distinguished Service Awards banquet was to take place near the end of the week at the Warren Hotel.