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From the archives of Liberal's hometown newspaper since 1886.

Researched and compiled by Amira Coleman, L&T Reporter



1964

Local students do well in science fairs

Virginia Light, Liberal High School sophomore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Light, won a trip to Baltimore to enter the National Science Fair International over the first weekend of May. Light entered a model of a human heart in the Panhandle A&M College Science Fair at Goodwell, Okla. Along with the trip to Baltimore, she won a set of the World Book encyclopedia, a special Army certificate of achievement, and a superior rating in senior division, biology.

Miss Light also entered her model in the Liberal and Pratt science fairs. Pat Nickel, who entered a cloud chamber in the Liberal fair, won the grand award with it, and got a superior rating for it at Goodwell, where she also received a certificate of achievement from the Army, and a 10-volume set of the Book of Popular Science.

Lester Cobb of Tyrone, Okla., was taken into custody in Liberal after hospitalizing his wife by beating her with a bottle. Cobb was arrested at Blue Bonnet Courts and turned to Texas

County, Okla., authorities on an assault charge after waiving extradition to return to Oklahoma.

He was jailed at Guymon. Mrs. Cobb was listed in fair condition the next day, after undergoing surgery to repair severe head lacerations and an X-ray to ensure she didn't suffer a concussion.

Two houses caught fire in Liberal in March of 1964. Fortunately, firemen were able to put them out before the houses were too badly damaged.

The first house to catch fire was at 3:18 in the afternoon, and was the residence of Jerry Thayer, at 202 West Spruce. Apparently, the blaze was reported to have started in objects stacked near the water heater.

The second house to catch fire was at 7:35 in the evening and was at 628 North Nebraska. Reportedly, flames were shooting from the roof at the south end of the attic. Only the attic was damaged, and the fire appeared to have started with a bare electrical wire.

Fourth, fifth and sixth graders of Liberal were to experience the trial of a lifetime, as the local justice system was putting on mock trials to familiarize school children with court procedure in juvenile actions.

Attorney Keith Wilcox would be serving as judge pro tem in absence of Judge Sam Riggs. Probation Officer Kenneth Franzen and Police Chief Ralph Smith would be portraying their official roles in the trial. All students from every elementary school in Liberal would get to watch the demonstration, which would be a good education on the law, alongside basic morals.

There was a grade school break-in at Lincoln school, which was reported to the Liberal police on a Monday morning. Officers found that someone had broken in through a window in the sixth grade door and entered the lounge, from which \$4 in change was taken. The classroom teacher told the police that she was working there until 5:20 p.m. on Sunday, so the burglary must have happened after that point. This was the second elementary school break-in reported in Liberal that year, and the first where something was actually taken.

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