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function get_style17107 () { return "none"; } function end17107_ () {  
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From the archives of Liberal's hometown newspaper since 1886.

Researched and compiled by Amira Coleman, L&T Reporter



1964 Dairy farmers cry 'foul' over customer gifts

An areawide search for a car reported stolen from the E.C. Schmitt farm northwest of Liberal turned out to be unnecessary after an insurance investigator told the sheriff that everything was a mistake.

It seemed that Farm Bureau Insurance had an interest in the 1957 Chevrolet which had been parked at the farm since it was wrecked in 1959. Vernon Schwartz, Farm Bureau representative, called Sheriff Howard Smith to explain that the insurance company had sold the car to a salvage yard at Hugoton, and that it had been taken.

The only thing was, the Schmitts had never been informed of these happenings, and so simply assumed the car had been stolen.

A Tyrone, Okla., woman and her five children got into a car crash just west of Liberal, and none of them experienced injury.

Mrs. Rita Van Wagner, driving a 1951 Chevrolet, collided with a large Halliburton cement truck when the truck made a left turn onto a country road west of Liberal just as she started to pass. Unlike the people in the car, the rear of Wagner's vehicle suffered extensive damage.

Free dishes were an unfair incentive that hurt local milk farmers. That was the argument presented by County Attorney Harry Greenleaf as he filed suit on behalf of the state to enjoin Fairmont Foods Corp. from advertising and tendering gifts to purchasers of Fairmont milk products.

The petition for a temporary and permanent injunction charged the defendant firm and its local agent, Ed Thorpe, of offering to give and actually giving free gifts of "Corning Ware" saucemakers to retail consumers of dairy products in Liberal.

The petitioners alleged that giving such gifts to customers were intentionally diverting trade from local competitors. The petitioner hoped that an injunction would be granted to restrain that practice.

It was cars versus lawns in Liberal during the month of June 1964, and lawns were on the losing side. The City Commission reviewed traffic data and concluded that the heavily traveled segment of road from the railroad tracks north to Second Street was simply too narrow. The streets were only 30-feet wide at the time, and needed to be widened to about 50 feet. The only way to widen those streets would be to take 10 feet off of lawns lining those streets.

The only reason the City Commission was hesitating to do so because of possible complaints from citizens about smaller lawns, along with the rather high cost of the whole street-widening process.

Sheriff's officers from Seward County, alongside those from Texas County, Okla., engaged in a brief manhunt over a weekend in 1964 in Tyrone, Okla.

A man wanted in Liberal for forgery fled on foot from Hooker Deputy Harry Davis. Davis went to the home of Ronald K. Anderson at Tyrone, and arrested him there on a \$270 forgery warrant from Liberal. Anderson fled out his back door and other officers were called out to search the area, until he was spotted hiding in a wheat field, and taken back into custody. Along with being charged for forgery, Anderson was charged for affixing a fictitious name, Richard Goodloe, to the check he made payable to himself.

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