



Thieves Get Cash, Narcotics Burglaries Here Friday

Two grocery stores here Friday night took \$1,800 in cash and narcotics, and a burglary to a major jewelry store in several years. The attempt was a fourth burglary in a row, and officers there were frightened before gaining entrance to the stores.

The thieves took morphine, demerol, and cocaine, and several hypodermic needles and syringes. Owner Jack Pippin said.

In each instance, the robbers "peeled" the store safes leading officers to believe the job was that of professionals. Each safe was heavily damaged. The thieves took only cash, leaving checks that were in the safes.

Sheriff Bill Pennington and Chief of Police "Bull" Barnett stated that entrance to the two grocery stores and the pharmacy was gained by breaking in a rear door at each place.

At the Ben Franklin store, a hole had been battered in a rear door, but the culprits abandoned their attempt without getting inside the store.

State Ranger Byron Currin

Fires Saturday, Monday Damage Two Residences

Separate fires which occurred Saturday night and around noon Monday resulted in extensive damage to a residence in West Haskell and a farm residence on the east outskirts of town.

Fire starting in a clothes closet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Baxter, 201 South Avenue N Saturday night burned out most of the interior of the three-room house, resulting in virtually total loss on the structure and contents.

No one was at home at the time, and the fire had gained good headway by the time Mrs. Baxter and her small son returned and discovered the fire.

Monday morning, fire believed starting from a defective water heater caused heavy damage to the large residence of Mr. and Mrs. Hardin Coffield about one-half mile east of town.

The fire spread throughout the kitchen before being noticed, since no one was at home at the time, and flames broke through the ceiling and threatened to spread throughout the entire building by the time firemen arrived.

The blaze was brought under control by firemen using booster trucks, since the house was outside reach of water mains. However, heat and smoke caused extensive damage throughout all rooms of the house, and to furniture and furnishings.

Commissioners Abandon Tax Equalization Program

Lutheran Welfare Society Director To Speak at Trinity Church Dec. 20

The Rev. Rolf A. Norman, Executive Director of the Lutheran Welfare Society of Texas will preach at Trinity Lutheran Church Sunday, Dec. 20 at 11:00 a. m.

Pastor Norman has been director of the Lutheran Welfare Association of Montana for 8



REV. R. A. NORMAN

years before coming to Texas. Prior to taking charge of the Montana Agency, he attended the New York School of Social Work, and studied the administration at Lutheran Welfare of Minnesota, under the direction of Dr. Henry Whiting.

Pastor Norman has served parishes in Bowman and Watford City, North Dakota, and Wolf Point, Montana before entering into social work. He graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., and also studied at the University of Minnesota and Marquette.

In his position as director in Montana, Mr. Norman served on the Governor's Refugee Relief and Institutional Chaplaincy Committees, as chairman of the Montana Conference of Social Welfare.

Lutheran Welfare has its headquarters in Austin and has services for unmarried mothers, places children for adoption, offers the counseling services for children and adults, and operates Trinity Lutheran Homes for the aged at Round Rock.

Holiday Program Will Be Given At Paint Creek

The Paint Creek School will have a community Christmas Program Monday night, Dec. 21. Each class will have a part on the program, and the entire school will give a play "The Meaning of Christmas."

Superintendent Pat Morrison extends an invitation to each patron of the school to attend. It is planned to make this an annual program.

Commissioners Court, in session Wednesday morning, scuttled a county-wide tax equalization program and by a 3-to-1 vote, cancelled a contract with Pritchard and Abbott, tax appraisal engineers of Fort Worth who had been employed to do the county-wide valuation job.

Cancellation of the contract came on a motion by Commissioner Francis C. Blake of Prec. 4, seconded by Commissioner Leon Newton of Precinct 2.

The motion stipulated that Pritchard and Abbott be paid a fair and reasonable price for service rendered to date. Voting for the motion were Blake, Newton and Commissioner Louie Kuenstler of Precinct 3. Voting against the motion was Commissioner Claude Ashley of Precinct 1.

Present at the session was Ed Pritchard, member of the appraisal firm, and Delmer Smith, associate. Mr. Pritchard assured the Court that a reasonable settlement on the contract could be worked out.

Contract to do the re-evaluation job was negotiated early this year, and was authorized by unanimous vote of the Court.

Action taken by the Court Wednesday had been hanging fire since the regular court session opened Monday.

At that session, Commissioners Blake, Newton and Kuenstler voted for a motion cancelling the contract, introduced by Blake.

Then Tuesday, action taken Monday was rescinded at a meeting with Blake absent. Voting to rescind Monday's cancellation were Commissioners Newton, Kuenstler and Ashley.

Latest action followed Wednesday, with the morning session a continuation of the regular court term started Monday.

Monday Proceedings

In other business transacted, Commissioners designated Dec. 24-25-26 as Christmas holidays for all offices in the court house, and approved the customary overtime pay for county employees in lieu of a Christmas bonus.

Commissioners also approved a charity case, in which the county will pay the difference between the pension allowance of an elderly Haskell man and the charge for his residence in a local rest home.

Highway Department designation of a F-M road project in Prec. 4 was accepted, and the Court also agreed to pay a part of the cost for lowering and casing oil lines of Service Pipe Line Co. under new F-M roads in Prec. 1.

Appearing before the Court to request that the county share in cost of a short-wave radio receiver and transmitter in the Rule City Hall were Scott White and W. V. Almond of that city. Cost of the unit was estimated at \$150. The Court voted to pay one-half this amount, or \$75.00.

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Water Problem Forces Hike In Rates

Because of the expense involved in the continuing search for a source of municipal water until a permanent supply is developed, the City of Haskell has found it necessary to increase rates charged water users.

The new schedule fixes the minimum rate at \$2.50 for the

Search For Water Forces Hike In Rates

first 3,000 gallons, 30c per 1,000 for the next 17,000 gallons, and 25c per 1,000 for all over 20,000 gallons used in one month.

The old rate was \$1.75 for the first 3,000 gallons, 25c for the next 22,000, and 15c per 1,000 for all over 25,000 gallons.

The new rate goes into effect with the Jan. 15, 1960 billings.

Despite the advance, the rate to be charged is lower than the charge in towns of comparable size and larger.

Notice of the rate change appears on Page 5 in this issue.

Harry S. Koehler New Member of SCS Staff Here

Harry G. Koehler, formerly of Yoakum, Texas, is a new member of the staff of the local Soil Conservation Service unit in charge of H. C. Yeary.

Mr. Koehler replaces Travis W. Herring, who has been transferred to the Coleman SCS unit.

The new man will work as a conservation aide in the local work unit.

Water Problem Is Obstacle To Hospital Grant

Lack of an approved municipal water source may be an obstacle to securing federal aid funds for the pending modernization - expansion program of the Haskell County Hospital.

This was learned by a Haskell delegation Sunday, when the group appeared at an informal session of the State Board of Health in Austin in behalf of Haskell's application for \$80,000 aid under the Hill-Burton Act. This would match an \$80,000 bond issue authorized recently in a county-wide vote.

The Haskell group included County Judge Jim Alvis, Hospital Administrator Hallie Chapman, and Maurice Gannaway, a hospital director.

They were told that since Haskell did not have an approved water supply, "You fellows are not inside the park yet."

Assurance was given by the Haskell men that definite progress was being made in remedying the water situation here.

Judge Alvis and other members of the group expressed the belief that Haskell's application would be given consideration and they feel that eventual approval will be given the request.

Goodfellows Worry Over Lagging Gifts

Goodfellows are beginning to worry. They're wondering if the community's heart is as generous as it will need to be to carry Christmas cheer into the homes of needy and unfortunate families in our midst.

Gifts to the Goodfellows Fund have been disappointingly slow, and to date total stands at \$259.00.

At the lowest estimate, around \$800 will be needed to carry out a program adequate to the community needs, the Goodfellows point out and that fact has them worried.

Their worries are nothing compared to the forlorn disappointment that will be felt in the homes whose only hope for a tiny portion of Christmas happiness is sparked by their faith in the generosity of the Goodfellows.

There is still time for you to help—if you act at once. Your gift can be turned in at The Free Press or mailed to the Goodfellows and they can use it for food and possibly a toy or two for children in some needy home.

All gifts will be acknowledged in the columns of this newspaper.

Gifts to date:

Previously reported	...\$67.00
Dr. J. G. Vaughtner	... 5.00
Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Foster	... 15.00
C & L	... 5.00
Haskell I.O.O.F. Lodge	15.00
T. A. and Sue Barfield	10.00
Philtrea Sunday S.	...
Class	... 25.00
Mrs. R. C. Lowe	... 5.00
Referee Bible Class	27.00
Mrs. J. R. Cooper	... 10.00
Dale Condon	... 10.00
Ben C. Chapman	... 10.00
Friendly Fellows S.	...
S. Class	... 25.00
Jno. E. Robinson	... 5.00
Chas. M. Conner	... 10.00
Haskell Free Press	... 10.00
Mr. and Mrs. Lon Pate	... 5.00
Total	...\$259.00

Two Fined After Raids Net Beer, Whiskey, Vodka

An O'Brien Mexican, Eugenio Abila, was fined \$200 and costs of \$27.20 in County Court Saturday night, after he had entered a plea of guilty to possession of liquor.

Sheriff Bill Pennington and Deputy Moreland Glass of Haskell, Constable Raymond Denson of Rule and Deputy Buddy LeFevre of Rochester seized around 90 pints of whiskey and vodka as basis for the charge against Abila. However the "find" was not made until officers had almost given up hope, so well was the contraband concealed.

Another seizure Saturday, several cases of beer, resulted in charges against another Mexican, Guadalupe Barreria, who lives a few miles southeast of Rule.

Making the raid were Sheriff Pennington, Deputy Glass, and Constable Denson.

Barrera entered a plea of guilty before County Judge Jim Alvis, and drew a fine of \$100 and costs of \$27.20.

Christian Church White Christmas Program Sunday

Traditional White Christmas Program, an annual observance, will be held at the First Christian Church Sunday, Dec. 20, at 6:30 p. m.

The evening's offering will go to four separate Children's Homes supported by the church.

Rotan Man Buys Dairy Cream

Purchase of the Dairy Cream sandwich shop in this city by Mr. and Mrs. Art Carter of Rotan was announced this week by Mr. Carter and the former owners, Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Jones, who have operated the business for the past year or longer.

The new owners took charge of the establishment this week and plan to continue operation along the same lines as in the past. Mr. and Mrs. Carter have moved to Haskell and plan to make their home here permanently. They are members of the Baptist Church. The family includes three sons, Terry Lynn and Pat at home, and the oldest son, Mike, who is in the service and stationed at San Antonio.

Ambulance Mishap Seriously Injures Covell Adkins

Covell Adkins of this city, mortician with Holden Funeral Home, was seriously injured last week, when an ambulance he was driving went out of control and left the highway a short distance east of Haskell.

He suffered fracture of two vertebrae in his spine, in the region of his shoulders, and other minor injuries and bruises. He has been hospitalized since the accident, but may be able to leave the hospital as soon as his condition will permit the application of a brace for his back.

The Haskell man was returning alone from an ambulance trip to Dallas. A defect in the steering mechanism is believed to have caused the mishap.

Haskell Girls Cage Tourney Starts Today

Haskell High School will sponsor a girls basketball tourney in which teams from Olney, Knox City, Munday, Throckmorton, Benjamin, Paint Creek and Haskell will play.

Beginning at 4:30 p. m., four games are slated today, including Haskell vs. Olney. Two games are due Friday night, two Saturday morning, and finals Saturday night.

Boys Win Own Tourney

Haskell slipped past Abilene Christian High School, 56-53 to win the Haskell Invitational basketball tournament here Saturday night.

Gary Anthony found the range for 22 points to pace the Haskell scoring attack. James McCown and Doug Beatty each racked up 22 points for ACHS. Hamlin, led by Cecil Robison's 18 tallies, slaughtered Albany, 60-30 to win the tournament consolation crown.

Rains Seen Soon to Small Area

Rains that have brought inches of moisture to the ground, while the large acreage of crops in this area, and a bountiful supply of grazing for livestock, and livestock raisers here.

As light rain and drizzle of the moisture has been on the ground, while the highways have been slippery and hazardous and of continued drizzle which was still falling Wednesday.

HANG-OVER FROM "THIRSTY 30's"

Wet Status Voted In 1935 May Still Hold In Prec. 4

A 24-year-old hangover from the "Thirsty 30's" has come to light in Haskell County.

In June, 1935, voters in Justice Precinct No. 4 legalized the sale of beer in that precinct by a vote of 109 to 83.

Subsequently, the Supreme Court ruled that a "wet" precinct in a dry county was contrary to local option laws of Texas.

More recently—this year—higher courts have reversed this interpretation of the local option laws with a ruling that a justice precinct or incorporated city could be voted "wet" regardless of the local or "dry" status of the county in which it was located.

In view of the latest ruling, parties in Justice Precinct 4 have sought information from County Attorney Curtis Pogue as to the local option status of the precinct today.

Tuesday, the County Attorney stated that a search of the records and applicable laws indicated that the "wet" status of Prec. 4 as established in the 1935 election still prevails. However, he stated that an opinion of the Attorney General would be requested to definitely establish the "wet" or "dry" status of the precinct.

As it now appears, the will of the people in that precinct, as expressed in the 1935 vote, has never been changed by subsequent vote or law that can be found of record.

Justice Precinct 4 includes Sagerton and the southwest corner of Haskell County, extending to the county line on the south, east to Highway 277 and north to a point about five miles south of Haskell.

Following the 1935 election, a number of beer stores were opened in the precinct. Three of these—The Black & White, Hilltop, and Bluebird Inn—were on the county line adjacent to the Stamford city limits. Another was located at the northeast corner of the precinct, a few miles from Haskell.

Since the Old Glory precinct in Stonewall County voted "wet" a short time ago rumors have been current that a similar election was being talked in J. P. Precinct 4.

Now, with the 1935 election coming into the picture, reports were circulating this week that several "choice" locations in the precinct, along Highway 277, had been bought or leased presumably as sites for beer stores.

However, County Judge Jim Alvis and County Clerk Horace Oneal said that as far as they knew no applications for licenses to sell beer had been filed in Haskell County.

Junior High School P-TA Will Assist Goodfellows

The Junior High Parent-Teacher Association will collect gifts for the Goodfellows at the Christmas Tea planned for Thursday, Dec. 17.

Santa will be there to collect food and gifts from guests and members who call during the hours 4 until 5:30 o'clock at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Connally, 202 North First Street.

Patrons and citizens as well as members are urged to find fellowship and lend a helping hand to those in our community less fortunate to commemorate the birth of Christ.

School Holidays Begin Dec. 22, End Jan. 4th

Students and teachers in Haskell schools will begin their Christmas holidays from school with the close of school Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 22.

Regular schedule will be resumed Monday morning, Jan. 4, when classwork will be resumed in all city schools.

Stamford People Winners Saturday's Christmas Awards

Lynn Carlton of Stamford being present when his name was called. Other names drawn, of persons not present, were Beryl Boone and H. A. Bayless of Haskell, W. F. Hertel of Sagerton and Willard Akeman of Rule.

F. L. Peavey, Haskell, won the \$10 award as the 10th name called. Others drawn who were not present, included T. A. Barbee, James A. Lisle, and W. V. Almond, all of Rule; Buck Turnbow of Weinert; and H. C. Jewell, Tom Watson, Madalin Hunt, John Lee Holcomb and G. G. Carney of Haskell.

Third and final drawing of the series will be held Saturday, when \$100 in four awards will be given away.

Ratliff & Ratliff Law Offices In New Quarters

Law offices of Ratliff & Ratliff have been moved to the new Pierson Building recently completed just off the northwest corner of the square on Avenue E.

The law firm, one of the oldest in this city and section, formerly was located on the second floor of the old Haskell National Bank Building.

The new location provides convenient and modern ground floor quarters for the law firm.

C-C Directors Make Plans for 1960; Review Year's Activities

Chamber of Commerce directors held their final meeting of the year Tuesday morning in a breakfast session at the Highway Drive Inn, when plans for the coming year were outlined and accomplishments during the current year reviewed briefly.

A report on the Christmas Program now underway, and the successful parade and pageant held recently, was given by Tom Barfield, chairman of the retail trade committee. He stated that a small deficit might have to be made up in financing the program.

A nominating committee for five new directors to be elected at the 1960 banquet was appointed. Named on the committee were Dr. T. W. Williams, chairman; Henry Withers, Tom Barfield, Bill Pogue, A. M. Turner, Dr. J. G. Vaughtner, Myrion Biard.

Named on the annual auditing committee were Dr. Vaughtner and Biard.

The calendar of business holidays to be observed in 1960 was adopted, identical to the 1959 schedule, with the following business holidays designated: Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas (two days, Dec. 25-26), and New Year's Day.

In a brief review of accomplishments during the past 12 months, C. of C. Manager Mrs. Roy Johnson mentioned the following projects:

Completion of the Municipal Airstrip, Clean-Up Campaign, adoption of a Haskell slogan securing a Civil Defense emergency hospital in Haskell, improvement of Haskell County Golf Course, Rodent Control Program, Paving of Downtown Alleys, sponsoring of United Fund organization, and cooperation with numerous civic drives and projects.