

Wet Towel Betrays Fugitive at Oshkosh

Oshkosh — The Oshkosh youth sought by some 40 police officers in connection with the shooting early Thursday of Oshkosh Police Chief Richard Vandermate was apprehended late Thursday afternoon in a vacant Oshkosh house.

Jesse Travis Rouse, 17, was found on the ledge in the basement of the vacant house by Ogallala Policeman Bill Sauer and State Trooper Earl Schenck. Sauer said the youth surrendered without resistance.

In North Platte, Vandermate remained in critical condition in St. Mary's Hospital Friday following more than three hours of surgery Thursday. A hospital spokesman said Vandermate, 32, spent a "restful" night.

Rifle Loaded

State Patrol Lt. M. F. Busekist said Rouse had a fully loaded .22 caliber rifle in his possession when arrested.

Authorities searched the home where the youth was found after reports that a wet towel was found in the building.

Rouse was immediately taken to the Garden County jail, authorities said.

Rouse was charged by Garden County Attorney Marvin Romig with intent to inflict great bodily injury and with burglary at three different businesses.

The owner of the house, Mrs. Minnie Dowson, told police she had gone to the house to water some plants. Some of the water got on her hands, she said, and when she reached for a towel to dry them, she discovered the

Muny Pool Will Be Kept Open This Summer

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has agreed to keep Muny Pool open this summer, but it put off a decision about next year until later.

The pool, designed 50 years ago, is in bad shape, but the department will operate it this year, assuming the plumbing, pump and other equipment do not fail. If they do, and the pool has to be closed for any length of time, the city will bus swimmers to another pool, according to recreation superintendent Dick Leker.

The long-range issue of a pool in that area has been referred to the board's pool committee.

The Lincoln Garden Club also met with board members to discuss plans to help with upcoming city planting of street trees. The city will plant the trees in the public right-of-way, and the club will mail out instructions to homeowners so they can maintain the new trees properly.

100,000 Haven't Filed 1970 Tax Returns Yet

Omaha (AP)—At least 100,000 Nebraskans haven't yet filed their 1970 federal income tax returns, Charles O'Grady of the Omaha office of the Internal Revenue Service has reported.

State Tax Commissioner William E. Peters estimated 125,000 persons have not yet filed state tax returns.

April 15 is the deadline for filing both state and federal returns.



Jesse Rouse Arrested



Richard Vandermate Wounded

towel was already wet. She immediately notified the sheriff's office.

Crime Study

It has been determined that last summer, Rouse was one of a group of youths selected to go to Washington to participate in a juvenile crime study commission and later the youth attended a regional juvenile crime subcommittee meeting in Scottsbluff.

The capture of Rouse at about 4:45 p.m. Thursday brought to an end an extensive 15-hour manhunt in and around this small Panhandle community of 1,067 residents.

The shooting episode occurred about 2 a.m. Thursday.

Vandermate was found by authorities with six bullet wounds, slumped across the front seat of his police cruiser, its siren turned on.

Six Shoots

According to Garden County Sheriff William Keizel, Vandermate had fired "at least six shots" in an attempt to notify the residents of the shooting.

The youth, a long-time Oshkosh resident, had been serving a 90-day sentence in the county jail for a violation of probation.

Keizel said the youth had been charged earlier with assault after threatening Vandermate with a gun nearly two months ago while on probation on charges of assault and battery and injury to property.

The youth had 28 days left to serve on his 90-day sentence.

Lock Jammed

Authorities said the youth apparently was able to escape from the jail about 1 a.m. by jamming the lock on the cell door with foam to keep the door from completely closing.

Shortly after 1 a.m. Thursday, investigating officers had determined that three separate Oshkosh businesses were entered.

At the local Gamble's store, a .22 caliber rifle was reported missing, while at a bar, some \$300 in cash was reported missing.

The shooting occurred in front of a second liquor store, where Vandermate had gone to investigate still another break-in.