

Stuck truck

Wheels spin, grass burns

By JACK HODGES
Staff Writer

About 20 acres were damaged when a grassfire grew from a pile of rubble burning outside the city limits of Bryan on Chick Lane and Leonard Road Wednesday afternoon at 12:30.

"I was supposed to keep enough water around the fires but some wind blew and parts of the fire caught the grass," Jeremiah Smith who was hired to burn old tires and wood.

There were no structures or fences damaged.

When the fire began, Smith had to carry buckets from a nearby pond to try to douse the flames, he said. When the fire truck arrived about 15 minutes after the fire began, Smith offered to help the three firemen.

"The owner is going to eat me out when he finds out about the fire," Smith said.

The Bryan Fire Department allows only one of its trucks out of the city limits to fight fires and it had a difficult time getting to the scene because of locked fences and bad roads. Once close to the fire, the 12,000 pound truck drove into soft soil and sank about a foot. A tow truck was called for soon afterwards.

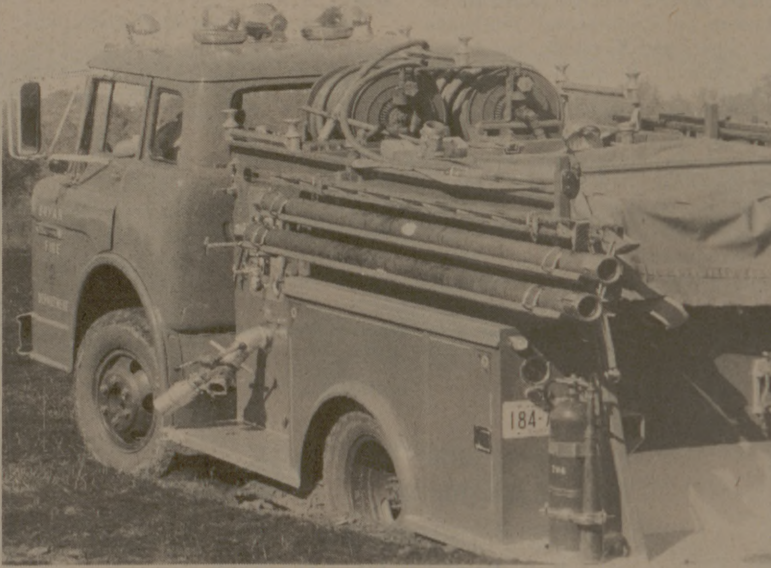
"I am going to get eaten out also, when the chief finds out I got the truck stuck," fireman Wallace Pope said.

About 1:45 p.m. the fire began to move west through a fence into an adjoining pasture. Two firemen battled the fire, while Pope dug around the truck. The truck was rescued and the fire put out about 30 minutes later.

The land is owned by Elmer "Bullet" Grays, 1009 West 18th, who was going to use the land for grazing 20 head of Herefords next week and "now I can't do it," Grays said.

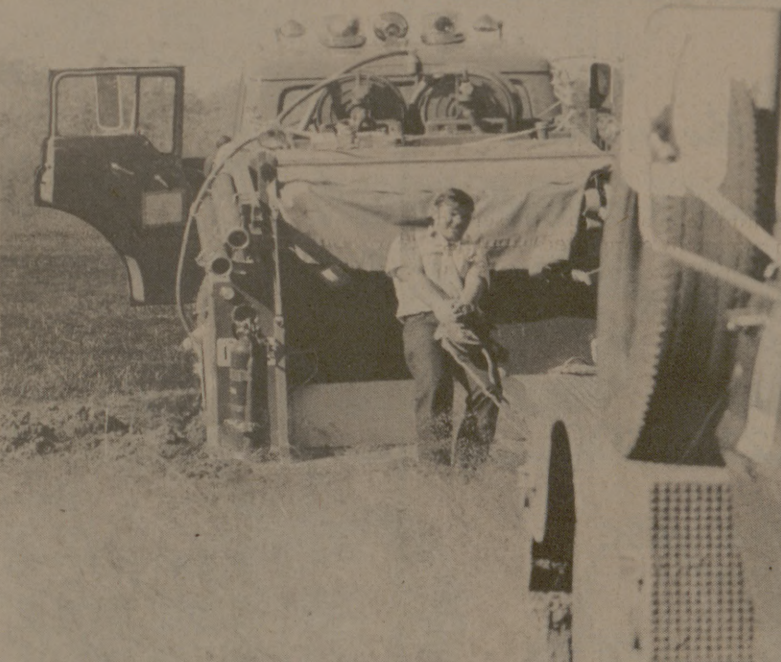


Firemen David Lively (l) and Dave Attaway (r)



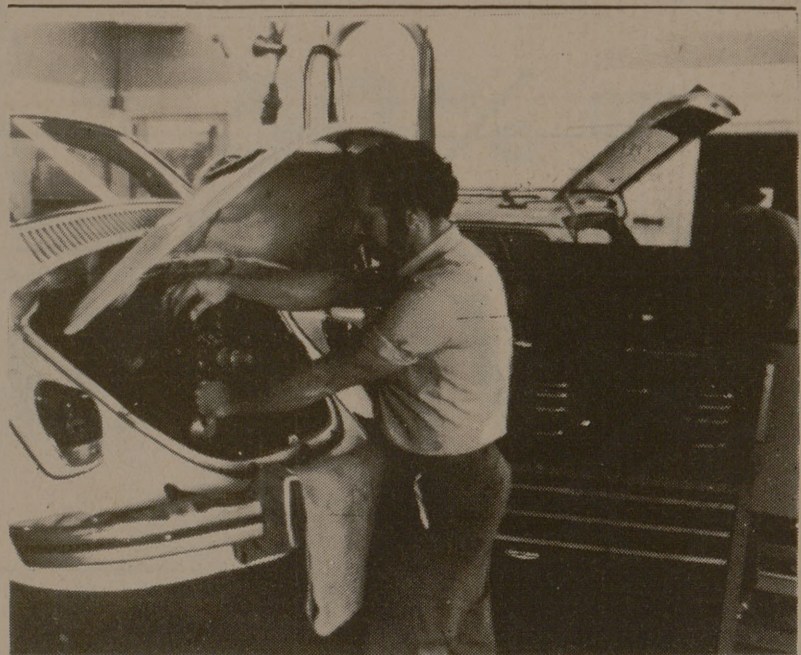
Stuck truck

(Photos by Steve Krauss)



Truck Driver Wallace Pope gets his tow.

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