

the city

Cities prepare for pothole war

By NANCY ANDERSEN
Battalion Staff

The battle of the potholes, that annual struggle between winter weather and Bryan and College Station street maintenance crews, will soon be under way.

Winter's weapons are cold, rain and ice. Moisture collects under the road surface, making the asphalt swell and pop out. Eventually, after days or months of constant traffic, the swollen section collapses. The result is a pothole.

Street maintenance crews have two defenses against weather's offensive, Bob M. Galloway, head of the Texas Transportation Institute's Highway Materials Division said.

The first defense is a preventative. It involves applying an asphalt sealer over cracks in the road surface during summer or early fall. This keeps moisture from seeping below the surface. This is the best and most inexpensive way to minimize potholes, Galloway said.

The second defense, patching the holes, is a two-part weapon.

Because asphalt will not stick to

moist ground, crews can only use it as a temporary patch to fill holes. This keeps roads usable until the weather permits more extensive work.

A permanent patch is made by removing any wet material in the pothole and repacking and covering it with asphalt.

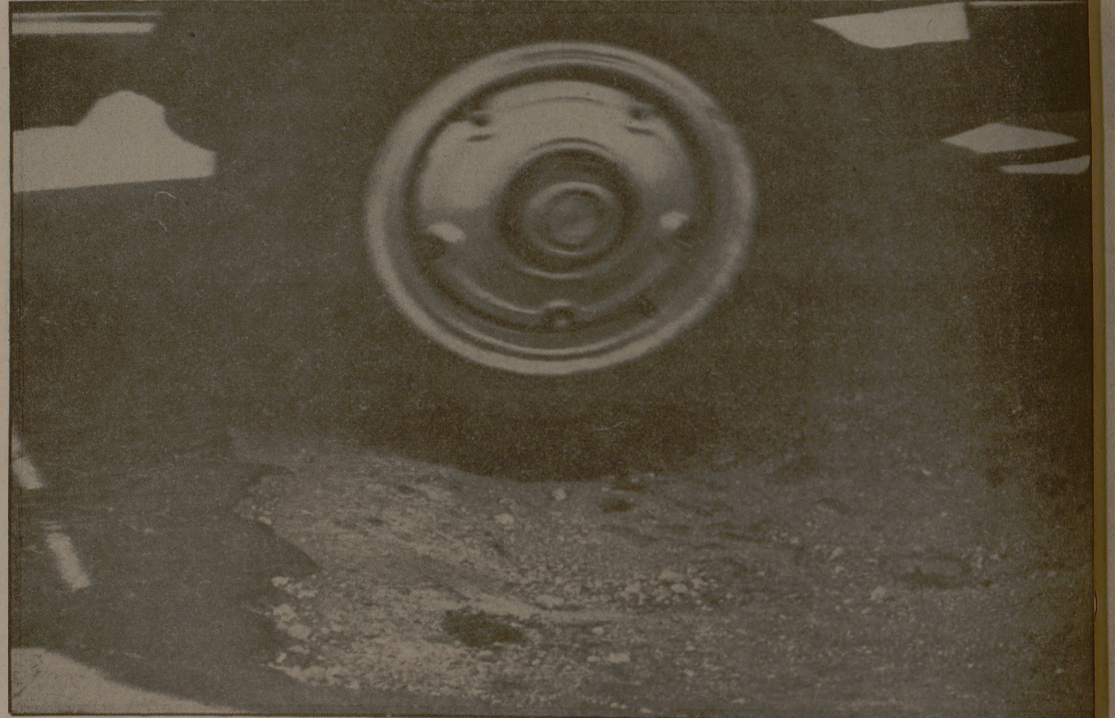
Neither College Station or Bryan's street department superintendents, Alfred Miller and Vince Nuche, knew how much fixing potholes cost.

Nor is it known how many dollars' worth of damage is done to cars that are driven over potholes.

Damage depends on the size and condition of the car, how fast it's going and the size of the pothole, Galloway said.

The most common result is that the front wheel alignment of the car is knocked out, he said. The cost of wheel alignment varies from \$10 to \$20, on the average.

In addition, Galloway said, the tire tread may become separated from the tire itself. A driver might not notice the separation until high-speed driving causes either a blowout or the loss of tread. Prices for tires start at \$20, but usually run between \$30 to \$50.



A tire rolls into one of Bryan-College Station's many potholes. Bryan and College Station officials are readying for the increase in potholes that winter brings.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Lester

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Skeet range to be built by University

Nearly 10 acres have been set aside by Texas A&M University near Easterwood Airport for the development of international clay target and skeet shooting ranges.

The ranges, suitable for sponsoring Olympic-style competition, will have two fields for American and international-style shooting.

The international competition will permit Olympic competition and will bring top shooters to Texas A&M, said Tony Monzingo of the department of health and physical education.

Total cost of the range will be about \$75,000 and must be raised from contributions. The department has received a \$15,000 gift from the Safari Club International. The money will be used in construction.

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