

LESSON 3 – CASE STUDIES

3.1 Farm accident takes woman's arm

Gearing Up Daily News

Westbury – The daughter of a local couple is recovering from a near tragic accident that nearly cost her, her arm. Jennifer Tarver, daughter of Granbury natives Orville and Jeanette Moses, was injured in a farm accident near Westbury on Sunday, Sept. 24.

Tarver got her arm caught in an auger while unloading corn. Jennifer, along with her husband, Jim, and son Chad, 21, were working on unloading the last load of corn from a truck to the auger when her left sweatshirt sleeve got caught in the farm equipment.

Tarver was freed from the auger by her son Chad, who was on the passenger's side of the truck when the accident occurred.

"If he hadn't been there, she wouldn't have made it," Jennifer's father Orville Moses said.

Rescue crews and an ambulance from Westbury and Monterrey arrived at the scene. Tarver was transported to Holy Family Medical Center before being airlifted by Life Line Helicopter to Memorial Hospital in New Town.

Tarver is still in Memorial Hospital where her father reports that she is doing fine. According to Orville Moses, the doctors have reattached her arm and she has feelings in her fingers. He said it is unknown at this time as to whether or not her arm can be saved.

He said that Jennifer should begin skin grafts on her arm at the beginning of the week. Jennifer is a GHS graduate who worked in various area establishments while living in White County. The Tarvers, who reside in West Haven, currently farm land near Westbury where the accident occurred. The land is owned by Jonathan Howard.

There will be a benefit for Jennifer at the White County Fairgrounds on Nov. 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. The benefit will include a hog roast and white elephant auction.

All money raised will be donated to help pay Jennifer's medical expenses.

3.2 Freak farm accident takes life of local boy

Gearing Up Daily News

Aledo – A freak accident involving a tractor took the life of Jared Shipley, a local Aledo teenager, Thursday afternoon.

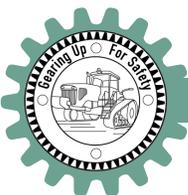
Shipley, 15, an employee on the Howard Redman farm was moving logs on the back lot of the Redman farm when the accident happened. Shipley had a log chained to the tractor and started across a small ditch when the rear left tire blew causing the tractor to overturn, crushing him beneath it.

Julio Martinez, a fellow employee, heard the accident and rushed to Shipley's aid. "The tractor fell across his chest. I felt for a pulse but was unable to find one so I got on our radio and called for help right away," Martinez said.

Rescue crews and ambulances from Aledo were rushed to the scene where they worked to free Shipley. After more than two hours, they were able to free Shipley and rush him to St. Mary's Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 4:00 p.m.

Juan Ortiz, Shipley's supervisor on the farm, stated that Shipley was running late and didn't perform his usual safety inspection of the tractor. "If he had done his safety inspection, he might have noticed that the pressure in the tire needed to be adjusted," said Ortiz. "We are going to miss him around here; he was a good kid to work around."

Shipley was a star athlete at Aledo High School and was also the vice president of his class and an officer of the school's FFA chapter. Services will be held Monday July 10, at 11:00 a.m.



3.3 Didn't see tractor, other driver says

Gearing Up Daily News

Itascosa - A rural Westbury resident said he did not see the tractor being driven by the 15-year-old rural Itascosa girl killed in a traffic accident Tuesday evening in Coke County.

The accident claimed the life of Wendy Smith, 15, rural Itascosa.

Miss Smith died at the scene of the accident after becoming pinned under the farm tractor she was driving.

The Commercial Review reported that the tractor's left rear tire was struck by a pickup driven by Billy Watson, 56, of Westbury.

Watson told Coke County police that he didn't see the tractor until just before the crash. Upon seeing the vehicle, Watson swerved in an attempt to avoid a collision.

Watson said he did not see any rear lights or a slow-moving vehicle sign on the tractor. Police are investigating whether there was a light on the rear of the tractor.

The accident occurred after 6:00 p.m. Tuesday on County Road 500 N., half a mile east of US 35 at the northern edge of the Coke County line. Miss Smith, a student at Coke Central High School, was driving the tractor behind another tractor apparently driven by her father, Steve, when the accident occurred.

After the impact, the tractor went off the road and overturned in a ditch. The tractor was pulling a hay rake and didn't have a cab or rollover protection, police said.

The Commercial Review said that in addition to Coke County authorities, many of the neighboring cities and county emergency response personnel responded to the scene.

3.4 Man runs over wife with tractor

Gearing Up Daily News

Carrollton - A 25-year-old Dallas County woman was in serious condition at Memorial Hospital this morning after being run over by a tractor driven by her husband.

Mitchell Page, 26, of Carrollton, was moving dirt on his farm using a tractor with a front-end loader, at approximately 12:15 p.m., said Dallas County Police Lt. Rob Fultz. Page's wife Cindy, was helping by locking and unlocking the front-end loader, he said. The mechanical lock on the loader was broken so Page was having his wife walk along side to manually active the lock.

Apparently, Cindy had just locked the front loader when she was hit by part of the tractor and fell, Fultz said. Page, evidently not seeing his wife nor knowing she had been hit, ran over her chest with the front wheel of the tractor, he said.

Both Cindy and Mitchell were taken by emergency workers to Memorial Hospital. Mitchell Page was in shock, Fultz said.

However, a hospital spokeswoman said Mitchell was not treated there.

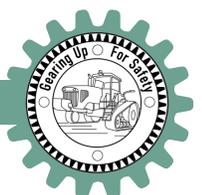
3.5 Loose bolts cause bad spill on Rt. 205

Gearing Up Daily News

Brookston - Loose lug bolts on the rear wheel of a tractor driven by Elizabeth Kline of rural Brookston caused a spill of over 250 bushels of corn on Rt. 205. Kline, age 16, was transporting corn from her father's field back to the farmstead when the rear wheel of the tractor came loose causing her to lose control of the tractor and jack knife the wagon-load of corn.

Due to the spill, the highway was partially blocked for over an hour while state highway crews cleaned up the corn.

Sheriff Turrell found that none of the lug bolts on the wheel were tight and most appeared badly worn due to being loose for some time. No injuries were reported nor were any citations issued.



3.6 **Hired helper on vegetable farm dies from tire explosion**

Gearing Up Daily News

France Park – Elian Luntz, a newly hired laborer on the Polozili Vegetable Farm, was killed when the tire he was inflating exploded sending pieces of tire over 80 feet away from where he was working. Paul Polozili, farm manager, indicated that Mr. Luntz, age 18, had just been hired to do field work and operate a tractor and wagon to transport harvested crops to the packing area.

It appears that after making three or four trips, Mr. Luntz noticed that the right rear tractor tire was soft and proceeded to the maintenance shop where he used a shop compressor to re-inflate the tire. The explosion occurred during this activity.

Tom Mosser of the Greene County Sheriff's Office believes that Mr. Luntz was attempting to put more air into the tire than it was rated for. The compressor had the capacity to produce up to 150 p.s.i. of pressure and the tire was only rated for 12-15 p.s.i.

The explosion could be heard over one mile away, which further suggests that the tire was filled way beyond its capacity. No charges have been filed at this time, but officials from the State OSHA Office are investigating.

3.7 **Teen caught in corn picker for over two hours**

Gearing Up Daily News

Mount Vision – A rural Mount Vision teenager became entangled in the corn picker he was operating and remained caught for over two hours while dozens of motorists passed within 200 feet of him.

Steve Engels, age 19, was picking corn on his parent's farm in a field next to State Road 105 when the husking bed became plugged. He dismounted the tractor, leaving the power engaged to the picker, and proceeded to the back of the picker where he reached in to clear the plug. His glove was pulled into the rollers, and eventually, his arm was pulled in up to his elbow. For some unknown reason the tractor stalled leaving Engels trapped.

Over the next two hours, he attempted to wave down passing motorists who interpreted his hand signals to be a friendly wave and most waved back. Finally, Will Field, a mechanic with Country Line Implement, stopped to provide assistance and found the teen caught. Using a cell phone, Field called for local emergency rescue personnel. The machine had to be cut apart to free Engels arm.

Engels was transported to Fairview Hospital and later transported by helicopter to University Hospital in Albany. No additional information on his condition is available.

