

The Giddings News

May 23, 1924

Truck Ablaze

Herman Hilsberg was driving his delivery truck in East Giddings Tuesday when it caught afire and had it not been for his presence of mind, the truck would have burned up, the gasoline tank exploded and perhaps near-by property damaged.

Herman had started to his farm on the Beat Five road and was near the lane at the town limits when he noticed his engine backfiring. He promptly turned around and attempted to reach town. When he was between the residences of E. G. Jaehne and Arthur Jaster, a blaze broke out at the carburetor. Herman began to throw sand on the blaze and with the assistance of Robert Jennings Jaehne who brought some sacks, they had the blaze under control when the fire boys and truck arrived. The fire alarm was sounded because if the gasoline tank had exploded a fire would easily have broken out.

The blaze was caused by a backfire in the engine which reversed the spark, sending it back to the carburetor which became heated and more gasoline vapor was being generated and the flames were spreading and burning the wood work and around the wind shield and radiator. All the wiring was burned and the dust pan beneath was burning, on account of the grease becoming hot.