



**FIRE TRUCK DEMOLISHED**—Investigating officers and workmen are shown in the process of attempting to remove the body of Clifford E. Blackwell, captain of the Kerrville Fire Department who was fatally injured Friday afternoon when the fire truck he was driving left the road and crashed into two trees. The impact

separated the cab from the 12,000-gallon water tank which landed in an area near the truck. Blackwell was pinned inside the cab. Another fireman, Curtis Meade, Jr., was thrown clear of the truck. He is in Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital. (Times Staff Photo by L. Reed)

# Blackwell Killed In Fire Truck Crash

## C. Meade Receives Serious Injuries

Clifford Elbert Blackwell, 38-year-old captain of the Kerrville Fire Department, was killed instantly Friday afternoon and another fireman sustained serious injuries when the fire truck they were riding in left the road and crashed into two trees .8 of a mile north of Kerrville on Highway 16.

In Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital as result of a broken leg and minor cuts and abrasions is 29-year-old Curtis Meade Jr., who was thrown from the truck when it crashed. He was reported in fair condition Saturday morning.

Blackwell who was at the wheel of the 1955 GMC truck, a recent addition to fire-fighting equipment for the department, was pinned inside the cab, according to Patrolman Wallace Spillar who investigated.

Justice of the Peace Raymond Orr pronounced Blackwell dead at the scene.

Cause of the accident is still under investigation, according to Fire Chief Bob Davidson.

According to Davidson, Blackwell and Meade had taken the truck out on a trial run and to charge the battery. Enroute back to town, the truck suddenly left the road on the left side and crashed into two live oak trees. The impact separated the cab from the 12,000-gallon water tank, flattening it to such an extent blow torches had to be used to remove Blackwell's body. The tank had to be sawed before tor-

ches could get to the cab, according to those who worked the accident. A truck containing a torch was dispatched to the site by the Texas Highway Department as well as wreckers from Ken Stoppel Ford and Peterson's Auto Co. The vehicle was completely demolished.

A Plummer-Fair ambulance took Meade to the hospital.

The Kerr County Sheriff's office and Chief of Police J. H. Newcomer assisted in investigating the accident.

Blackwell, a veteran of 13 years with the Kerrville Fire Department, had been captain two years. He was a native of Bandera, born there Feb. 6, 1929, a son of W. R. Blackwell and the late Delia Saathoff Blackwell.

He had lived in Kerrville 21 years. His residence was at 400 Lucille Street.

His marriage to the former Miss Viola Feuge took place in Fredericksburg on Sept. 5, 1959.

Survivors are the widow, Mrs. Viola Blackwell; two young sons, Charles William and John Clifford, both of Kerrville; his father, W. R. Blackwell of Bandera and a brother, Dwayne Blackwell of Kerrville.

Funeral services will be held this Sunday at 4 p.m. in Plummer-Fair Chapel with Stanley Bratcher of the Church of Christ to officiate. Interment will be in Garden of Memories.

Out of respect to the deceased, the flag at the city hall is being flown at half mast.