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AREA MAN PINNED 26 HOURS

A 48 year old Carenceo man was rescued Friday night by the sherrif's emergency rescue squad after being pinned beneath a bushhog tractor for about 26 hours, Sherrif Carlo Listi said.

Chester A Leger of Stelly Road was found by a neighbor, Earl Arnold Jr. at about 10:30 p.m. Friday with his left leg pinned under the tractor. Arnold called the Sheridd's Office and Acadian Ambullamce.

Reserve Deputies Mike Fincher and Judy Staton aided Leger until the emergency squad arrived and removed the tractor.

Leger was taken to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, where specialists were working to save his leg at press time.

The victim remained conscious during the entire 26-hour period, officers reported.

FARMER RECALLS ORDEAL

by Alton Broussard
Advertiser Staff Writer

A tough Carencro farmer was recuperating in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Saturday after a grueling ordeal during which hw was trapped for 26 hours under his tractor in a dry coulee.

Chester Leger recounted his tortuous experience from his hospital bed Saturday where he was treated for injureis to his left leg. Circulation in his left foot was impaired and a muscle was apparently cut by the pressure of the steering column of his tractor.

Leger related that about 6 p.m. Thursday he started cutting weeds on the edges of his soybean field off Highway 726 in the Carencro Area.

"It had rained, so I decided to clip the tall grass - there was no dust." he said. "I was cutting as close as I could to the edge of a coulee when something gave way - maybe a rat hole."

The tractor started to slide into the coulee about seven feet deep.

" I tried to bail out, but I didn't go the right way. Something must have got caught."

"I could hear the engine seed up. I landed real hard. The tractor was on top."

Leger said he took off his right boot and pressed the ignition button with his toe to stop the tractor engine.

"It was a long long day. I could hear people talking. There was a couple of fellows who came nearby hunting with dogs. I was yelling and beating on the steel with a wrench."

A fellow farmer and neighbor, Earl Arnold, Jr., became concerned about Leger when he and his wife realized they had not seen him all day. Arnold investigated and found Leger's home deserted and his automobile in the yard.

Sherriff Carlo Listi's office was notified and Arnold and deputies found Leger in the coulee.