

The Giddings News

April 25, 1941

Giddings Hitch-Hiker.

Adolph Manz, 22, of Giddings tried his luck at hitch-hiking last November. He had worked on the NYA project in Giddings building the LCRA office building and wanted to go to Brownwood for carpenter work at the army camp there.

He left Austin at 1:30 p. m. afoot, was soon picked up by two young ladies and rode the back seat to Burnet. After a 5-min. wait he caught a ride to Goldthwaite where he waited 25 minutes and caught a ride with a salesman from Dallas and arrived in Brownwood at 9:30 p. m.

Hotels were full, men were sleeping in stores and anywhere else they could get in from the cold. Adolph spent the night in a hotel lobby. Early next morning he footed it out to the army camp, saw men sleeping on the open ground, in automobiles and as many as eight in a tent. The "bull pen" was a large enclosed space where workman waited to file application for work.

There were about 250 men waiting to register and Adolph was promised work in a few days. He had only a few cents so could not wait long with a cup of coffee and a small doughnut costing 15c, so he decided to return home.

He caught a milk truck at Brownwood and got lost near Goldthwaite and had to double back to Goldthwaite with a Mexican truck driver who told Adolph he wanted some beer. Adolph gave him a dime, the Mexican got his bottle of beer and then drove Adolph several miles where he waited 45 min. and caught a ride to Austin with a passing auto. arriving there about 8 p. m. where he stayed with a friend until he returned to Giddings.