

The Giddings News

September 12, 1941

Fatal Tragedy.

Messers Roy Byrum and Jack Shelton were badly burned here Saturday and Mr. Byrum, 33, died about 6 o'clock that afternoon from it, caused from washing grease off their bodies with gasoline, ignited from the pilot flame of a water heater and there was an explosion throwing flames all over their bodies and they must have inhaled the flames also. They were in the back of a barber shop in town, but there was plenty of assistance to prevent the building from burning or possibly the whole town would have burned. Mr. Byrum was a brother of Mrs. M. E. Peters of this place. His home was near Lexington and he was buried at the Florence cemetery Sunday afternoon. Our whole town was shocked and horrified from this tragedy and the family has the profound sympathy of every one. Mr. Shelton and Mr. Byrum both were employed on the highway work that is being done between Giddings and Caldwell. Mr. Shelton was seriously burned also but was still living when the writer last heard about him in a Bryan hospital, and may survive his injuries.