

The Giddings News

February 27, 1931

FATAL ACCIDENT

Seventeen Feet Crowded On Sixteen Feet

A passenger bus and a freight truck collided at 10 o'clock Monday night four miles east of Burton on practically level roadway. The engine parts of the machines had cleared each other, but the truck driver turned his truck to the right, which swung the rear end of the truck loaded with 15 bales of cotton into the middle part of the bus. The bus driver was thrown from his seat but he regained the steering wheel and guided the bus away from the ditch and brought it to a stop on the side of the roadway 100 yards from where it was struck. He and a former Giddings boy, Robert Williams a passenger, then rescued the passengers. Robert had just given up his seat to Miss Wright and had moved to the rear of the bus.

Twelve persons were injured. One man was killed instantly. He was the advance man of the noted Roxy orchestra which is touring Texas on a charity benefit trip. Two teachers in the Giddings high school, Miss Bessie Black, principal, and Miss Wright, Spanish and English teacher, were severely injured in the wreck. Miss Black's left arm was broken in three places, above the elbow, below the elbow and in the wrist joint. Miss Wright's injuries were X-rayed and no fracture of the skull was found, but some concussions were found. Several bad gashes were about her face, one extending from above her left eye up into her hair, her arm was cut between the elbow and shoulder, a bad cut was at one elbow, her hands were badly bruised. She was wearing glass beads, and each bead made a gash around her neck. Her face was scratched. She and Miss Black were taken immediately to the hospital in Brenham where they remain, but their sufferings were intense. The latest report from the hospital is that Miss Black is much better and is resting easy. Miss Wright sleeps most of the time and it is feared that she is seriously injured from a concussion of the skull.

The truck is owned by an Elgin man. The driver was arrested and placed under a \$2500 bond. The truck load measured 9 ft. wide, and the bus measured 8 ft. wide, thus crowding 17 ft. on a 16 ft. highway. The accident has aroused considerable comment from Brenham, near which place so many serious accidents have happened recently.

The truck and trailer were 45 ft. long. It was hauling as a private truck which is not required to have a permit.