

The Giddings News

July 24, 1942

MAN KILLED IN ACCIDENT

James Henckley Berry, Jr., age 17, was instantly killed Saturday morning at 2:30 o'clock when the new automobile he was driving left the highway 77 and crushed into a tree. The machine owned by R. C. Reinhardt, 30, salesman of Houston, who was sitting on the front seat, was almost a complete wreck. Mr. Reinhardt was pinned in the wreckage and it was about four o'clock before he could be extricated. He was removed to a hospital where his foot was amputated.

Two other young men, age 17, who were on the rear seat suffered minor injuries and shock and were soon released. Berry's blood-soaked body was lifeless when removed to the funeral home in Giddings from which it was taken to Dallas, the home of the three young men. They were employed as welders in the N. Y. A. shop at Cuero and were on their way to Dallas when they hitchhiked to near Hallettsville and were picked up by Mr. Reinhardt who was also going toward Dallas and he let Berry drive his car.

When about 3 miles north of Giddings on a straight, wide hard-surfaced highway this side of Nail's Creek indications were that the brakes were slapped on and the car left the roadway about 150 yards away, went off an easy slope and crashed into the tree. All the bark on the south side of the tree up to 7 ft. high was knocked off. The car must have been going at a rapid rate when it struck the tree. The car was struck near the right-hand head light and the front part was all mashed in.