

John Irvin Gentry Odessa Man Dies In Head-on Crash

An Odessa man was killed and three other men injured Sunday night in a head-on collision east of Abilene on U.S. Highway 80. Dead is John I. Gentry, 41, Odessa lubricant distributor. The injured are Pat Darnaby of Odessa, Donald J. Curry of Oklahoma City and Sam Samples of Odessa. They are in Hendrick Memorial Hospital.

Darnaby's condition is serious, although extent of his injuries was not known Monday morning.

The physician treating Curry and Samples said they did not appear to be in a serious condition when he first examined them early Monday morning.

Darnaby and Gentry were returning to Odessa from a fishing trip to Lake Whitney in a 1955 station wagon. Darnaby was believed to be driving.

The station wagon and a 1941 sedan collided about three miles east of Abilene. Curry was apparently driving the sedan with Samples as a passenger.

Highway Patrolman Jack Shields of Abilene was the investigating officer.

He quoted an eyewitness as saying the station wagon was traveling west and the sedan east. The car attempted a left turn into a cafe on the north side of the highway, then swerved back. The two vehicles then collided head-on.

Gentry's body was taken to Odessa for funeral services at 3 pm Tuesday at the Hubbard Funeral Home from Kiker-Warren Funeral Home here.

Graveside rites are scheduled Wednesday morning at Alameda Cemetery south of Ranger.

Gentry was born Oct. 4, 1913 at Brownwood and is a veteran of World War 11, serving in the Air Force from 1942 to 1946. He was a member of the American Legion, Elks Lodge and was a Scottish Rite Mason.

Gentry had been distributor for Wynn's Motor Oil at Odessa since 1938.

He is survived by his wife, the former Alta Faye Mosley of Ranger; his mother, Mrs. Mary Gentry of Brownwood; a sister, Miss Lila Evelyn Gentry of McKinney; a brother, Marion Gentry of Penwell.