

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1915

# YOUTH IS FATAALLY INJURED WHEN CAR PASSES OVER BODY

## Richard J. Berry, Jr., Dies as Result of Accident on South-Main Street.

### LEG SEVERED FROM BODY

### Hurled in Front of Line Car as Bicycle's Front Wheel Skids.

### MOTHER IS PROSTRATED

### Medical Aid of Four Physicians at Hospital Fails to Save Young Life.

Richard J. Berry, Jr., 7 years old, died at the Findlay Home and Hospital Thursday morning, one hour and twenty minutes after his left leg had been ground beneath the wheel of a street car under which he was thrown in an accident on South Main street. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Berry, 1208 South Main street.

Mrs. Berry, the mother of the dead boy, is prostrated as the result of the sudden snuffing out of the life of her only son. Although she did not witness the accident, she saw the mangled body of her son placed in the ambulance and taken to the hospital, after which she was completely overcome. Two nurses and several physicians attended her continually last night.

A small piece of skid was all that held the left limb to the body at the hip, when the boy was taken from beneath the car. The leg was completely severed at the hospital. No other part of his body, with the exception of a small scratch on his face, was injured.

All the medical aid of four physicians at the hospital could not maintain life in the young body. Every effort was made to keep the heart beating, but the attempts were unavailing and death relieved the sufferings of the boy at 11:07 o'clock. The accident occurred at 9:45 o'clock. Never loses consciousness.

From the time of the accident until the hour of death, the youth retained somewhat dazed condition at the first. "Am I dead, Daddy?" was the first question which he asked his father, upon the arrival of the latter at the hospital. He talked rationally while in the ambulance enroute to the hospital and after he had been taken in the hospital.

The exact manner in which he was thrown under the car probably will remain forever a mystery. He was riding north on his bicycle, in company with two companions, Leonard Staples and Robert Glessner, on the east side of Main street, when suddenly he fell from his wheel on the street car track in front of a line car, the front trucks of which passed over his leg.

J. T. Shaver, of Bowling Green, motorman saw the youth fall in front of the car and in an instant applied all the brakes bringing the car to a stop within a few seconds' time. In fact the car was stopped so soon that the rear trucks did not pass over the body.

The boy was lying on his back when found, with his legs under the car. Renshler's ambulance was called and within a few minutes he was at the hospital. Mr. Berry arrived at the hospital immediately after the ambulance, coming from downtown.

### Story of Witness.

J. T. Virden, 118 Jeffries avenue, who was one of the eye-witnesses to the accident, told the following story last evening:

"I was coming from Jeffries avenue to Main street in my automobile and was running slowly in order to allow the car which was approaching on the east track to pass before I crossed. I noticed the three boys riding on the east side, apparently racing with each other. The Berry boy was the one nearest the car track while the other two were closer to the curb.

The street car, however, was overtaking them rapidly. When the Berry boy was about three feet beyond the car, his front wheel suddenly turned and he was thrown on the track. In an instant the car had passed over him and then stopped.

"Although I have no definite knowledge of what caused the unfortunate youth to be hurled in the fact of the approaching car, I believe his foot slipped from one of the pedals, throwing the handle bars suddenly to the side and pitching him from the wheel. "I do not think he was holding to the car's side handle, because he was in front of the car when I saw him."

Mr. Virden, who rode in the ambulance to the hospital, says that he continually asked for his father and mother, with his eyes wide open and apparently not suffering much, despite the fact that his left limb was severed practically and that he was so near death.

The two companions who witnessed the accident do not remember much of the accident. They both believe with Mr. Virden that the boy was not holding to the car at the time, but that he was guiding his bicycle with both hands.

### Jokes With Car Crew.

The boys started on the ride which proved fatal to one at the tangent line. Here, the line car switched to the east track and followed a Mortimer car north. While the car and its crew were waiting at the crossing, the boys and the men were joyfully conversing.

"What'll you give me for my wheel?" "Dick," as he was familiarly known to his many friends and playmates, asked one of the linemen.

"One dollar," was the reply and then the car started with the boys racing ahead on their bicycles. The accident happened just north of Jeffries avenue, almost in front of the home of Dr. A. H. Linaweaver.

Clark's ambulance removed the body from the hospital to the home, at

South Main and Lima streets. "Dick" was a vivacious energetic youngster and a leader among his companions. Always full of "life," he was a favorite of all who knew him. At the time of the fatal accident he was enjoying to the limit of his ability the week's vacation from school. He was in the second grade, at the Central school, his teacher being Miss Ida Berlin. He was one of the brightest pupils in the grade, as well as being one of the most popular primary grade pupils.

He attended Sunday school at Trinity Episcopal church being in the class of Miss Bessie Marsh. He was christened several years ago by a Bishop Leonard.

At the time of his death he was seven years and six months old, having been born Oct. 3, 1907. He observed the passing of the half-way mark between his sixth and seventh birthday last Easter Sunday. He was born in Findlay. No brothers or sisters survive, he having been an only child.

### Looked Forward to Summer.

One of the joys to which he looked forward to with much anticipation this coming summer was the training of a pony which he had been given as a present several months ago.

Mr. Berry, the father, is general superintendent of the Ohio Oil company. He came to Findlay a number of years ago from Oil City, Pa., at the time the offices of the company were moved here.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Berry, of Oil City, arrived in Findlay Thursday evening. The former is a brother of Mr. Berry. Mr. and Mrs. David Moore, of Athens, O. Mrs. Berry's home, also reached Findlay last evening.

Funeral services were held at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon at the home. Rev. Kendall Severance, pastor of the Trinity Episcopal church, officiated. Burial was in Maple Grove cemetery.

## NEWS OF THE SCHOOLS

### WHAT IS HAPPENING AND BEING DONE IN COUNTY ON EDUCATIONAL LINES.

The Morning Republican will publish a column of news items devoted to Findlay and Hancock county schools and teachers every Saturday. The editors will deem it a great favor if teachers will communicate by letter, telephone or otherwise, any items suitable for publication in this column. The column is intended to be of especial interest to teachers and pupils of the schools and all personal items or those dealing with any special work that is being done in any school will be greatly appreciated.

The next important action of the county school administration probably will be the selection of the list of text books to be recommended to township and village boards throughout the county for uniform adoption. It is not proposed however to take this action before June 1, when other school affairs will be out of the way for the year.

The adoption of uniform textbooks was recommended by the boards of education of the county at a joint meeting at the court house several weeks ago. The county superintendent and the county board of education was delegated to make the selection, the list then to be recommended for adoption by the township and village boards.

In order to make the selection as fair as possible and with no other consideration than the actual comparative merits of the various texts on any given branch as considered by the county educators, County Superintendent Nowlan has announced that no agent or representative of a book publishing house will be permitted to be present when the session is held to decide on the official list of books.

Such agents and representatives he said would be given due consideration both by himself and by the district superintendents any time previous to the final meeting but they must remain out of the final executive session.

Superintendent Nowlan has already been besieged by numerous agents who have desired to present the merits of various texts with a view to influencing for county adoption.

These arguments of various competing companies will have little weight in the final selection. Agents are being requested to send in samples of texts and the adoption will be based on personal inspection and consideration of the books by the superintendents and county board.

It is the belief of teachers and superintendents that Hancock county men, some of whom have had twenty-five years teaching experience are better able to decide what is needed in Hancock county schools than the agent of any company no matter how well versed he may be in the subject matter of his own text.

In those townships where a local uniform list has been adopted within the last five years, the favorable vote of at least four of the five board members will be required to make a change. In townships where no uniform list has been selected however a majority of three votes will be sufficient. However, from the fact that the vote at the meeting of township boards at Findlay several weeks ago was unanimous in favor of county uniformity, it is believed the list decided upon by the committee will be chosen with little or no debate and practically unanimously by every board.

County uniformity, obviously, will necessitate many changes and will, no doubt, at first meet opposition from those teachers who are decided in their favor to some particular text. But in the long run county educators and teachers and patrons are of the belief that it will be an excellent move. Action similar to that taken in Hancock county has also been taken in many other counties in Ohio.

### WILL SUBMIT WORD LIST.

While Hancock county may not have any contestants in the state spelling bee to be held at Columbus on June 4, County Superintendent Nowlan will prepare and submit a list of 100 words as requested by the state agricultural commission under whose auspices the contest is to be held. Plans may yet be devised whereby a county champion can be selected and sent to represent Hancock with the other counties of the state and possibly bring back state honors.