

Charles Rexford "Rex" Garten

June 7, 1960 – June 8, 1979

(From Hinton News – June 12, 1979)

Accidents Result in Fatality

Charles Rexford Garten, 19, was killed in an auto accident shortly after 2 A.M. Friday morning. Garten was west-bound on W.Va. Route 3 just East of the National Guard Armory when he apparently lost control of his vehicle and struck an embankment. The vehicle came to rest in the roadway after sliding over 400 feet.

According to investigating Trooper C.M. Mace of the West Virginia State Police Hinton Detachment, the back of the front seat was broken and the left rear door of Garten's car was open, indicating that he may have been thrown out of the vehicle as it came to rest.

Mace said a few seconds after Garten's vehicle came to a halt it was struck by a car driven by Curtis Pack who was also west-bound. Pack's car then struck Garten who was lying in the road next to his car.

Mace said other reports that Garten was standing next to his wrecked vehicle when it was struck were "completely false" Mace said his investigation showed that Garten could not have possibly been on his feet when he was struck. Mace said that Dr. I.M. Sopher of the State Medical Examiner's office confirmed that Garten was not standing when struck. Mace also said the exact time of death could not be determined so it was not known if Garten was killed by the blow from Pack's car or if he was killed when thrown from his own vehicle.

Mace said, however, that the light switch in Garten's car was in the off position, probably as a result of the impact of striking the embankment. Garten's car was also blocking the west-bound lane in which Pack was traveling at the time of the accident.

Mace also said stories about rain or fog contributing to the accident were unfounded.

Pack and a passenger in his car were not seriously injured. Damage to Pack's car was estimated at \$750.

Mace said no charges were filed, but that the investigation was continuing.

Services for Mr. Garten were held at 2 p.m. Sunday in the River Valley Baptist Church with the Revs. Bill Jenkins and Steve Barker officiating. Burial followed in the Huffman Cemetery at Buck.

Born in Hinton, June 7, 1960, he was a son of Charles Leonard and Amanda Jean Wood Garten of Buck Route, Hinton.

He was a member of the River Valley Baptist Church, a 1978 graduate of Hinton High School and was employed by the Pineville Construction Co. on a project in Hilldale.

Other survivors are two sisters include a twin, Regina Gay, and Thelma Jean, both at home, and the maternal grandmother, Mrs. Elva Wood of Buck.

Pallbearers were: Doug Rogers, Greg Rogers, David Clinebell, David Reed, Timmy Bolling, Pat Noble, Alan Harvey, Robbie Burroughs, and Jeff Briers.