

# Independent Ambulance Pact Signed

Five funeral homes in the Cambridge-Byesville area have signed a contract with an independent franchised company operated by Jess Byrd of Mansfield whereby, beginning March 1, it will take over their ambulance service, both emergency and invalid trips.

The five are Bundy-Law, Corwin, McGaughy, Scott and Thorn.

Other funeral homes in Guernsey County and also those in Noble County are said to be considering such an agreement.

Byrd already provides ambulance service for Zanesville, Mansfield, Gallon and Bucyrus. Other communities in Ohio having similar service include Newark, Athens, Canton, Massillon, Alliance and Hamilton, it was reported.

The funeral homes that signed the contract with Byrd explained in a joint statement that they had been "faced with increasing problems in their efforts to maintain area emergency ambulance service.

"Various plans have been con-

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sidered and in recent months statewide investigations have been made in efforts to solve the extreme difficulties that Medicare, minimum wage and hour laws and other matters have brought to the service," they further said.

"Almost at the beginning of the inquiry it was evident that the demands of emergency service could no longer be met by funeral service people, and soon it was learned that many areas of the state were turning to a specialized emergency service ambulance operation. Such a service for our area was considered to be a solution to the problems of the present service and also to be in the best public interest.

"Several persons doing the business of providing emergency ambulances, with trained personnel, on a 24-hour and seven-day week basis were investigated. An independent franchised company operated by Jess Byrd of Mansfield, is recommended as having the capability of providing the needs of our area. Mr. Byrd is now in full operation in several other cities and districts and an investigation can be made without difficulty as to the highly satisfactory service being maintained in those places."