UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

(Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No.   9   )*

Berry Petroleum Company
(Name of Issuer)

Class A Common Stock
(Title of Class of Securities)

085789105
(CUSIP Number)

Check the following box if a fee is being paid with this statement   .
(A fee is not required only if the filing person: (1) has a previous
statement on file reporting beneficial ownership of more than five
percent of the class of securities described in Item 1; and (2) has
filed no amendment subsequent thereto reporting beneficial ownership of
five percent or less of such class.) (See Rule 13d-7).

*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting
person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class
of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information
which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not
be deemed to be filed for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934 (Act) or otherwise subject to the liabilities of
that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of
the Act (however, see the Notes).

 2

1.   NAME OF REPORTING PERSON
        S.S. or I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

        C. J. BENNETT TRUST OF 1987   77-6035047

2.   CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP *

        N/A   (a)
                                             (b)

3.   SEC USE ONLY

4.   CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

        United States of America

   NUMBER OF   5.   SOLE VOTING POWER
    SHARES   1,233,516
 BENEFICIALLY   6.   SHARED VOTING POWER
   OWNED BY   239,881
     EACH   7.   SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
   REPORTING   1,233,516
 PERSON WITH   8.   SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
                                 239,881

9.   AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

      1,473,397

10.   CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES *

      Not Applicable

11.   PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

      7.0%

12.   TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON *

      IN - As Trustee of the C.J. Bennett Trust of 1987

      *SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILLING OUT!

Item 1(a). Name of Issuer:

            Berry Petroleum Company

Item 1(b). Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

            28700 Hovey Hills Road
            P.O. Bin X
            Taft, CA 93268

Item 2(a). Name of Person Filing:

            Clarence Jesse Bennett (C. J. Bennett)

Item 2(b). Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, residence:

            28700 Hovey Hills Road
            P.O. Bin X
            Taft, CA 93268

Item 2(c). Citizenship:

            United States

Item 2(d). Title of Class of Securities:

            Class A Common Stock

Item 2(e). CUSIP Number:

            085789105

Item 3.   If this statement is filed pursuant to Rules 13d-1(b),
            or 13d-2(b), check whether the person filing is a:

            Not Applicable.

Item 4.   Ownership:

            (a)   Amount Beneficially Owned:

                    1,473,397 shares

            (b)   Percent of Class:

                    7.0%

(c)   Number of shares as to which such person has:

(i)   Sole power to vote or direct the vote   1,233,516
(ii)   Shared power to vote or direct the vote   239,881
(iii)   Sole power to dispose or direct the
          disposition of   1,233,516
(iv)   Shared power to dispose or direct the
          disposition of   239,881

Item 5.   Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class:

           Not Applicable.

Item 6.   Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person:

           Includes 239,881 shares held under three trusts as to which
           voting and investment power are shared with two other persons.

Item 7.   Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired
           the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company:

           Not Applicable.

Item 8.   Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:

           Not Applicable.

Item 9.   Notice of Dissolution of Group:

           Not Applicable.

Item 10.   Certification:

           Not Applicable.

                              SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I
certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete
and correct.

     Date   January 23, 1997

                         /s/ Clarence Jesse Bennett
                             Clarence Jesse Bennett

                    Page 4 of 4 pages