

**REV. BIRKMAN
CELEBRATES 77th BIRTHDAY**

Rev. G. Birkman, retired Lutheran minister residing in Giddings, celebrated his 77th birthday Thursday. His eyesight is failing, otherwise he is hale and hearty and his friends are wishing him many more happy birthdays. Rev. Birkman was graduated from the Concordia seminary in 1876 and came direct to Fedor as his first charge, where he remained three years. He then went to Dallas to a small congregation that had been a mission point, stayed three years, after which he returned to Fedor where he remained 43 years, making a total of 46 years in the ministry, 43 of which were at Fedor. He also served as pastor at Lexington 6 years until a pastor was called there in 1891, and he also served at Thorndale 6 years, along with his work at Fedor.

Rev. Birkman's father was pastor near Waterloo, Monroe County, Illinois and his mother's church is celebrating its 90th anniversary Sunday. He has written a message back to the church which will be read. That church was organized in 1841. Illinois became a state in 1818 and Monroe County was estab-

lished in 1821. Germans began settling there in 1835. Texas gained her independence from Mexico in 1836.

Rev. Birkman's family consists of twelve children and step-children, 8 sons and four daughters. The oldest is Rev. John Behnken, pastor, Houston and the youngest is Prof. Herbert Birkman, teacher in Detroit. Mrs. Gus Steglich and Mrs. Frieda Gersch are the only children residing in Giddings.