

**A PERSONAL INTERVIEW  
WITH  
MRS. REBECCA J. FISHER.**

(Last week the News printed an account of the founding of the first college for higher education in Texas by the Methodist Church at Rutersville, a few miles from Giddings in Fayette County. In that article was mentioned Mrs. Rebecca J. Fisher the only surviving ex-student of that institution of learning. The following interview with Mrs. Fisher is sent to the News by Mrs. Gilliland of Austin.)

It was my privilege to have the pleasure of interviewing Mrs. Fisher, one of Texas' most useful and honored women. Before her marriage she was Rebecca Gilliland, whose parents were influential people in Philadelphia, Pa., and they came to Texas in her early girlhood. Her parents were murdered by the Indians, after which the orphaned girl lived with relatives in Galveston, and later attending the Rutersville College, the first church college in Texas.

While in school she met her future husband Rev. Fisher who held services at the college. He was at one time editor of the Texas Christian Advocate which was published in Houston, also presiding elder for a large section in East Texas, and with the exception of a few years in the Western States, the family lived in Texas. She kept boarders, taught school to help raise the family of children, besides doing a big share of the Methodist Church work. Her children and grandchildren are an honor to her guiding hand for they are carrying on her beloved work. Rev. J. Fisher Simpson, at one time pastor of the Methodist church at Giddings is a grandson, and other grandchildren are in New York completing their education. Mrs. Fisher remarked that all of them are eager for knowledge, eager for service. When asked her opinion of the present woman's clubs, she replied that clubs are a good thing but ~~we have~~ too many, but there never was in the world's history such need of woman's work as now. Everything that brings a better life to the home, the church and the state should interest all Christian women.

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"But," she remarked and this was the only word of disapproval of the present day conditions, "people have too much money, life is made too easy for them." Truly it can be said of her that those who "leave father and mother, brothers and sisters and houses and lands for My sake and the Gospel's shall in this life receive all these and life everlasting in the world to come," for every home wherein she chose to go is a home to her and the children whose guiding hand she helped to a useful life now scattered over the U. S. A. and in strange lands remember her on anniversary days by sending her gifts and letters and flowers of appreciation. Truly she has gotten the best from life and given the best of her life and now the best is coming back to her.

Mrs. Fisher in her ninety-third year is still busy at work writing her life which will some day be published and will be of inestimable help to those who, like her, are striving to make the world a better, and more beautiful place to live in for the work and thought left over.

All honor and praise for such a life.

Mrs. Etta Gilliland.