

The Giddings News

September 1, 1922

Aged Minister Retires

Rev. F. M. Fleming has served as pastor of the Knobbs church for the past two years. He had announced his last sermon for Sunday night, and at the close of the service thirty seven members of the Ku Klux marched to the pulpit and presented him with a testimonial of his service and also \$25.

The Knobbs church is the oldest Baptist church in this section of the state and it dates back to more than sixty years of continuous service. The greater part of this time, Rev. Fleming has lived in and near that community; he grew into manhood in an adjacent neighborhood and he has served as the pastor of that church at various times during his ministry which was begun when he was

a young man. He now retires from active work and he told the Knobbs people that he felt that his sermon Sunday night would be the last one he would ever preach. Rev. Fleming is a noble Christian character devoid of any pomp or ostentation; his life has not been spent among marbled halls of fame nor along the avenues of chronicled events; his has been the work to minister to his fellowman in the quiet recesses of life when there was none other to carry God's word, and to go along the highways and byways of life and among the groves (God's first temples) that His word should not return void. Beginning in another age when events that stirred men's souls were more trying than they are today, he always shared the trials and fortunes of his neighbors while he incessantly worked not for worldly things. His record for faithful service is more lustrous than that of any prince, or potentate and the lives of such uncrowned heads as his are towering monuments of righteousness for the present and future generations. The editor is glad to pen these few lines to the work of such a man and we know that there are hundreds of people in Lee and Bastrop Counties who feel the same way toward this venerable servant of God.