

The Giddings News

October 17, 1941

**DR. SAM JOEKEL ELECTED
STATE MODERATOR**

Dr. Sam Joeke! of Austin, native of Giddings, was elected moderator of the U. S. Presbyterian Synod of Texas in annual meeting. He has been a pastor the past twenty-five years and is also a professor in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Austin, and also a professor in the University of Texas. Dr. Joeke! faces a heavy task because the two synods in Texas of the Presbyterian Church (the U. S. and the U. S. A.) are about to merge their colleges, Austin College at Sherman and Trinity University at Waco, into one large university similar to Baylor for the Baptists, S. M. U. for the Methodists and T. C. U. for the Christian Church.

Austin College was originally located in Washington County, just as were Baylor University and Chapel Hill Female College, and also Rutgersville College (Methodist) near La Grange. All these schools were established in the early 1840's and were later moved north. Austin College was moved to Buntsville, then to Sherman.

The U. S. A. Synod now has to vote on the proposed merger. The vote this week was 143:59 for the merger. The division in the Presbyterian Church into the two synods dates back to Civil War days, just as did the division of the Methodists into the M. E., South, and the Methodist, the Northern and the Southern Baptist Conventions.