The Giddings News

August 21, 1931

EARTHQUAKE FELT IN GIDDINGS

Herman Biar who is custodian of the Imm. Lutheran Church building went to the church building Sunday morning to raise and lower the windowns that the building can become well aired before services. He had gone into the building and was in the act of raising the shades on the west side when he noticed a peculiar sound in the ceiling, lasting for a few seconds. This was soon followed by another similar sound but not so loud as the first one, and then there was a third but lighter sound. The duration of all sounds was less than half a minute. The chandeliers in the auditorium were swinging, and he glanced up at the electric light globes that were hanging near the organ, and they were also in motion. He raised the window to look outside, but saw nothing unusual. He says the body of the building did not shake to his knowledge, but the upper part, the rafters and joists made a loud popping sound as if they were in motion against each other, and the sound was easily heard the three times. The reported time of the shock over the country was 5:45 Sunday morning, and visitors at Mr. Blair's house Sunday morning said many noticed the effect of the quake at Hillsboro that morning.

Mrs. Mary Falke noticed the shake very distinctly that morning when a rocking chair in her room was set in motion. Mrs. Fred Placke who has been in earthquakes in California noticed the shock and was of the opinion it came from the southwest to the northeast. Monday morning she remarked that there was an earthquake early Sunday morning, and when she read in the papers about it, her idea was confirmed.

The center of the shock is supposed to be in Central Amerbelow Mexico. It was severe in some towns in the El Paso section, doing much damage and frightening the people. In several towns hotel guests rushed into the street. The shock was felt as far cast as Dallas, Taylor, Lockhart, Gonzales, Uvalde, Alpine and many intermediate places report the shock. A second quake was felt Monday night in some West Texas places.