

ECHO April 18, 1984

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## Gruenthal: Few signs left

Gruenthal, located about three miles northwest of Gretna, was also one of the first settled villages of Old Colony origin in the West Reserve. It was one of the relatively few villages in the Reserve which was located along the municipal road. The majority of villages were located on land about one quarter of a mile beside the municipal roads.

At one time this village stretched out for almost a mile. Over the years it has disintegrated so much that today there is hardly a sign of it ever having been there.

The original schoolhouse in the center of the village was

also used for church services every second or third Sunday. The nearest Old Colony church was eight miles West in the Village of Rosenort. Later a new school was built at the east end of the village which served here until this district was established as Gruenthal S.D. No. 1592 on June 6, 1911. A public school was built one mile north of the west end of the village which operated until Aug. 18, 1971, when it became part of the Rhineland School Division.

Family names in this area include: Driedger, Harder, Heinrichs, Heide, Martens, Redecop, Kethlers and

Schapansky. During the depression years in the 1930s this district was especially hard hit by swarms of grasshoppers. They literally cleaned off entire fields of grain that were ready for the harvest. This caused great concern and worries for the residents of how to feed their cattle and hogs through the winter.

The soil in this area is a black, fertile loam which is quite productive. However, farther east across the railroad it becomes much heavier.

The tall cottonwoods (long since gone), alongside the road, stretched out for more than a mile.



Photo taken in Oct., 1960. When sugar beet growing was begun about 1940, the company located a loading station at this point. The photo shows a familiar sight of beet trucks waiting to unload. The village of Gruenthal (visible in background) was located  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of the railroad.