

# Hamburg: not much left

• by J. C. Fehr

Travelling east from Greenfarm for three miles we come to the little village of Hamburg (two miles NW of Plum Coulee). Hamburg was established in the earlier years as a village by the Old Colony church members. As there were many Loewens here, this village was locally known as the "Leewis Darp". After they moved to Mexico this village disintegrated somewhat, until today there are only a few farmyards left.

The soil in this area is of a very good productive type, as were most of the early established villages. Therefore this district has had a good

population over the years. In fact, the one-room school became so overcrowded that some of the pupils had to go to Plum Coulee. In the 1940s there were enough young people over school age in this community to have their own Christmas and Easter programs.

Family names common in this area were: Janzen, Friesen, Wiebe, Braun, Reimer, Heinrichs, Neufeld, Hildebrand, and Hoepfner.

The school district of Hamburg No. 2139 was originally established by Rhineland By-law No. 51 on February 26, 1889. However, no public school was built here until after this district was re-established by

arbitration on August 8, 1925. The school was built in 1926 and operated until January 11, 1967, when it became part of Plum Coulee Consolidated.

The school was located on NE 16-3-3W. It had a furnace in the cellar, which very few of the one-room schools had at that time. Teachers who have taught here include: Friesen, H. Schellenberg, J. N. Hoepfner, D. Suderman, Sobering, Giesbrecht, W. F. Derksen, Martin Hamm, John J. Janzen, Loewen and A. Penner.

Today one single, lonely evergreen stands at the site of the place where at one time many children received their education in work and in play.



**Pupils on this photo taken in April 1939 include the following: Pete Derksen, George Dyck, Pete and Ben Reimer, June and Florence Hamm, Jake and Annie Friesen, Annie and Dorothy Enns, Alice Friesen, Tina Peters and the Abram Dyck boys.**



**This photo shows the flood in 1950; a holiday for the school children. In later years the drainage and dykes were improved so that such flooding of the farmland only happens when waters come exceptionally high. (Photos courtesy Jake P. Derksen).**