

## Hochstadt became Kleinstadt

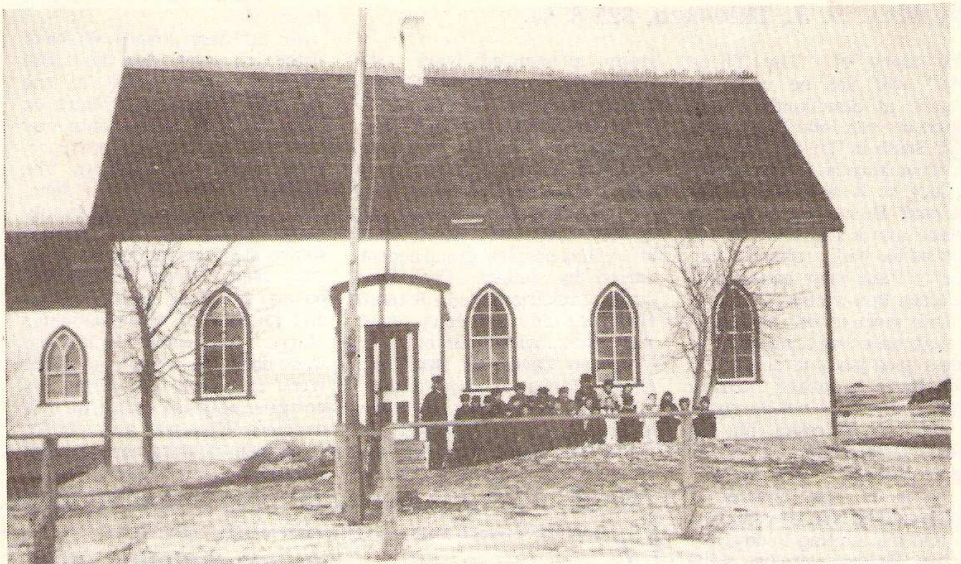
When this district of Hochstadt, located a few miles northeast of Altona, was established as a school district in 1892, there already was a district by the same name on the east reserve. To avoid confusion they had to register this district under a different name, hence the name Kleinstadt.

The original settlers of this district came here from the Niverville area about 1880. The method of settling here was as follows: The menfolk came here in spring, oftentimes on foot and walked all summer to prepare the homestead. Then in fall they went back to get their families to settle in for the winter. By the time winter set in this community was pretty well established as it had to be, because the nearest town was Emerson, about 20 miles away. Getting supplies in wintertime was no easy task.

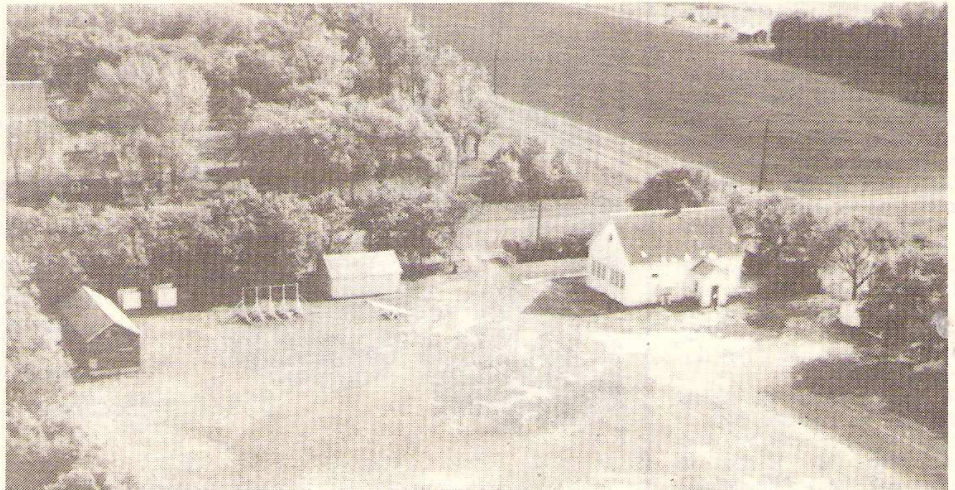
From the early crops of basic grains of wheat, oats and barley, threshed by flail, this community has progressed in the 100 years plus, to a great variety of crops. These include, besides the grains, sugar beets, sunflowers, rapeseed, peas, flax, soybeans, and other crops such as commercial vegetables. It is here that the largest strawberry producer in the R.M. is located, where thousands of people come to pick berries every year.

The School District No. 781 was established by Rhineland By-law No. 18 on March 7, 1892. The public school was located at SW 14-2-1W, and operated until January 1, 1967, when it became part of Altona Consolidated. A private school and the public school operated here side by side until 1910, when the private school closed. The high point of the pupil population was reached in 1932 when there were 45 pupils. J. J. Krueger was the last secretary-treasurer of the district, having served for 21 years from 1946-1967.

The population at one time was 200 people in 39 families. This was one of the few districts in the R.M. that was not greatly



The photo shows the public school around 1920 with teacher Peter D. Reimer. The building originally was the Bergthaler church which was sold to the school district for \$750 in 1912. They renovated it at a cost of \$175. It was here the General Conference of Mennonites held their first meeting on July 20-21, 1903. A cairn in commemoration of the Pioneer settlers was erected here in 1978 after a reunion of this district was held in July, 1977. (Photo courtesy W. J. Kehler).



This photo shows school yard later on when the building had been remodelled.

affected by emigration, as only three families from here moved to Mexico. Some of the family

names on the gravestones in the graveyard are: Abrams, Falk, Klassen, Wiens, Nikkel, Kehler,

Funk, Siemens and others which had pioneered this community.