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 25



This photo (probably taken around 1940) shows the pupils and the Kronstal school when it was located one mile east of the village. The school was built at this site on SE 19-1-2W in 1927, to replace the private school located in the village. The last teacher at the private school was Johan W. Rempel.

## *Kronstal settled 1876-77*

• by J. C. Fehr

Kronstal was one of the earlier villages that were established in the West Reserve. It was settled around 1876-77. It is located west of Gretna close to the village of Rosenort. The reason it was located here is two-fold. Firstly, this was where water could be found, and, secondly, the lower lying land to the east was not as suitable for establishing homes. The original main part of the village was on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 18-1-2W.

The main street was off the municipal road to allow for farmyards on both sides and still be on the same quarter section.

Over the years this village expanded at both ends to make this one of the larger villages,

complete with a community pasture 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles northeast.

When the emigration to Mexico took place, many of the residents left, too. A few years later, around 1927, an almost complete breakup of the village occurred. Buildings were moved out onto farms and the village street was not used anymore.

Today the many trees that are still there obscure the few residences left that to the casual passerby are hardly visible. There is still one original home left.

The private school that operated in the village, became a public school in 1925. Kronstal S.D. No. 2133 was established by a Rhineland by-law 328 on July 7, 1925. It operated until March 1, 1958, to become Kronstal Con-

solidated when Rosenort and Neuhorst joined Kronstal. A new school was built on the south end of Kronstal village at a cost of \$65,000 and officially opened on December 10, 1959. This school is still in operation today and part of the Rhineland School Division.

D. C. Siemens, a long-time resident of this community, has served many years on the school board. He was secretary when the public school district was formed. Today, at age 87, he is retired and still lives on the farm that he began in 1927 one mile north of Kronstal. His yard has won prizes for the best farmstead in Rhineland a number of times. This area is well known for having the best potatoe land of the municipality.