

## New Hope settled in 1877

• by J. C. Fehr

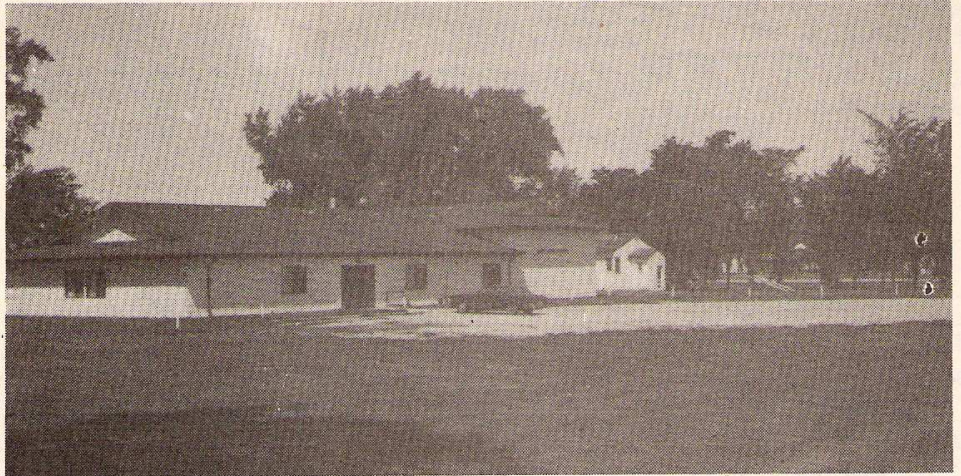
The Neuhoftnung district is located five miles southwest of Altona. It was established as a school district (No. 1310) by a Rhineland by-law (No. 134) on July 5, 1904, being one of the earlier ones to accept the public school. It operated until July 1, 1965, when it became Consolidated New Hope as part of the Rhineland School Division. It presently is one of the few country schools left in the R.M. As a consolidated district the pupils of the surrounding districts come here to school.

The district of Neuhoftnung was first settled around 1877, when people who had already spent a year in the East Reserve came here to look for better land. The first winter here they lived in semlins in a group in the middle of Section 33-1-2W, where they expected to establish a village. However, they decided to move on to their individual quarter sections and no village came into being. The soil in this district is ideal, located as it is between the lighter soil to the west and the heavier soil to the south and north.

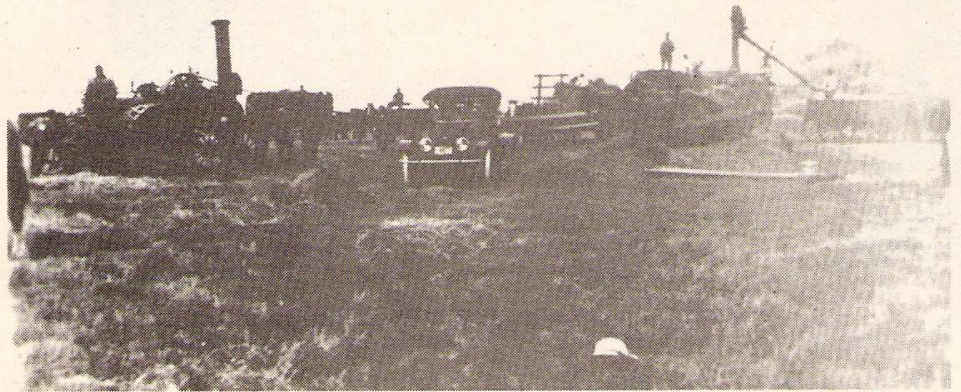
The early settlers did have special problems though, as there was no wood for heating and building and no wells for water. The water had to be hauled from the Buffalo Creek. (One branch of this creek runs through the southern part of this district, and the main creek is two miles east). The banks of the Buffalo also provided a special clay, which they used for caulking their log houses and also for making bricks for the heating oven.

The wood for building and heating was hauled from the Pembina River wood lots in North Dakota.

Not being an organized village like the Old Colonists to the south and west, it was of interest to the youngsters of an earlier era to watch the herdsman of Kronstal, herd the village cattle in their community pasture which touched the southwest corner of Neuhoftnung.



This photo shows the school today which was built after the old one burned down in 1979.



## Giesbrecht threshing outfit

Pictured is a steam engine and separator in operation. It was owned by Heinrich H. Giesbrecht, resident of the Neuhoftnung school district (now known as the New Hope District.) Following is an account by his son Peter U. Giesbrecht: "As long as I can recall, my father had a threshing machine. It consisted of a 27 H.P. Sawyer Massey steam engine, a 36'x60' wood framed separator and tanks and strawracks. In the years around 1910 the separator was not equipped with a self feeder nor a straw blower. When I was twelve years of age, both these features had already been added. At this age I was already a member of the threshing gang as a "straw buck". My job was to haul the straw to the engine for the firing. I held this post for two years. After this I was advanced to be the fireman for three years, 1914, '15, '16. After these years were past, I was advanced to separator man, which post I held for the next three years. After that I was on my own.

My father had a co-ownership partner. His brother Peter H. Giesbrecht, a school teacher, owned one quarter of the machine. This Mr. Giesbrecht held the position of engineer and my father was separator man for many years. After I left, brother Corny was separator man. I do not recall when threshing with steam power ceased but it must have been in the late twenties, I would say 1928".

(A 1914 record shows that Mr. Giesbrecht threshed 15,846 bu. wheat and 4,583 bu. oats and barley. He charged 6¢ per bushel for wheat and 5¢ per bu. for oats and barley.)