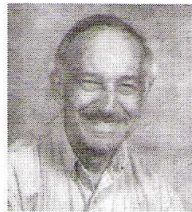


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The Home Front



by
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Remembering Rosenheim

Rosenheim School District No. 1306, sited northeast of Horndean, operated from its establishment in 1904 until June 30, 1966, when it became part of the Horndean School District.

John S. Schroeder, a former resident of the district, has compiled a photo album of the school's 60-plus years and it can be seen by checking at the Altona Archives, next to the Altona Library, on Tuesday afternoons.

At its formation, it was proposed to situate a school on NW 14-3-2W. Petitioners suggested that there were 20 children of school age now resident at their homes within the proposed district, and that it was miles away from other school sites.

The first meeting was held at the home of Jacob Pfeiffer, and it was proposed that lands from the existing school districts of Grossweide and Steinfeld be included in the newly-proposed Rosenheim district.

After an earlier organization meeting, a decision on the school location and the purchase of one acre of land for a schoolyard was reached on Sept. 5, 1904, so states an old minute book, with details recorded by J.C. Fehr in a series on rural schools published in the *Red River Valley Echo*.

The very next day, on Sept. 6, they decided to raise \$550 through special taxes for the project and also to put an ad in the *Nordwestern* (a popular German magazine) for a teacher. And by Sept. 9th they had decided to hire a carpenter, A.H. Hiebert, to build the school.

He was to be paid \$12 per 1,000 board feet of lumber used, and was given a deadline of Oct. 15 to have the building finished - a mere five weeks.

After the private school in the area closed in 1912, the pupil count increased so much that by 1927 there

were 64 students. They were forced to make a small cellar for the stove in order to accommodate all those students in one room.

Eighteen-year-old Anna Krause, of Gretna, was the school's first teacher and taught two years. Among those noted in an early school photo were: Jacob Funk, Jacob Friesen, William Funk, Cornelius Klassen, Maria Sonntag, Caroline Pfeiffer, Emily Sonntag, Helena Klassen;

Aganetha Friesen, three Martens' children, Abram Klassen, John Hintz, Jacob Sawatzky, Elizabeth Funk, Peter Sawatzky, Philip Sonntag, Tillie Hintz, Annie Neufeld, Margaretha Neufeld, Frank Sawatzky, John Klassen and Annie Sawatzky.

Many teachers taught here, and boarded in the community, often at the Schroeders. Some of the teachers were: Gertrude Wiens, Plum Coulee, Hans Ulrich, John Kugler, Thomas Voss, Cornelius Friesen, Mr. Giesbrecht, Gretna; Tina Wiens, sister of Gertrude; Cornelius H. Hiebert, William Ewert, Gretna; Peter Loepky, Altona; Alexander J. Bauman, for several years;

Mrs. J.P. Dyck, later of Winkler; Adolph Guse, John Funk, Rosenfeld; Jake Janzen, Morden, then brother Henry H. Janzen in the 1920s to 1927; also Jacob Hiebert, Nick Neufeld, Abe Friesen, Peter Unrau, Gerald Dyck, Herman Isaac and Jacob Kroeker.

Tina Wiens married the well-recognized author Frederick Philip Grove, 1872-1948 in 1914, and they lived and taught across Manitoba, including Winkler, before moving to Ottawa.

The original school was replaced with a new school in the late 1950s, and served the community well until it closed in 1966.

The area was quite well populated at one time. Geographically there is a slight rise in the lay of the land in this area where the land was better drained, and this part of the district was settled first, likely around the year 1890.

On the outlying areas, where the drainage was poor, the settlers were often flooded out and so they didn't stay long. After the government had completed the channel south of Rosenfeld, a floating dredge was moved in to improve drainage in the northern part of the district.