

Rosengart: Grasshoppers were a blessing

• by J. C. Fehr

On the southwest corner of the R.M. of Rhineland, just one mile north of the U.S. border, lies the village of Rosengart. The district also extends partly into the R.M. of Stanley. It was one of the original villages settled in the year 1875. With Reinland being so near, within two miles, the Village of Rosengart had neither a store nor a church. One famous resident, who is also buried here, was Elder Johann Wiebe, the leader of the church at the time of settlement. According to an 1880 census the village had 16 homeowners with another 9 "Anwohner" (landless) for a total population of about 111.

A private school operated here for the first 50 years. In 1925 a public school district was established as Rosengart S.D. No. 2131. This was after the migration to Mexico, when a number of districts were established to replace the private schools.

In the immediate area were the districts of Reinland S.D. No. 2130, Rosengart S.D. No. 2131, Aesop (Rosenort) S.D. No. 2132, Kronstal S.D. No. 2133, and Schoenwiese S.D. No. 2134 that were established at this time.

In 1971 the school districts of Reinland, Rosengart and Haskett amalgamated, whereby the school at Haskett was closed. The grades 1 - 4 were then taught at Rosengart and the grades 5-8 were taught in Reinland. In 1973 these districts became part of the Garden Valley School Divi-

sion, but continued to operate under the same arrangements until 1981, when the new school, Border Valley, was built.

Rosengart is located on what probably is the lightest soil in the R.M. When other farmers are taking it easy after a heavy spring rain, the farmers at Rosengart are on the field, before the last drops of rain have fallen! This area of light soil was, in the early thirties, heavily infested with sow thistle. Then the grasshoppers came. Not only did they eat up the crops, but they also cleaned out the sow thistle, a blessing in disguise.

Today this area produces heavy crops of all kinds. That came as a result of different farming methods and also the availability of a large variety of crops that can be grown here.

At one time a number of homes were located outside the village, but presently most residents of this district live in the village.

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Other items of historical interest: A steam-operated flour mill located on west side, just outside the village, was in operation here before the migration to Mexico. Wood for heating the steam power was supplied by North Dakota residents, who also had their flour made here. Windmills were used for pumping water for livestock. There is a good supply of water in this area. Today a municipal well supplies water to three villages — Reinland, Rosengart and Schoenwiese.



Photo shows a group of teenagers on a turning swing on the school yard, (school not visible) around 1940. Left to right — Nettie Goertzen, Helen Fehr, Justina Goertzen, Sarah Janzen, Susie Wieler, Lizzie Goertzen, and two girls from another village. The house on the neighboring yard shows the straw roof — one of last to survive the years.



Pupils include: Harold Thiessen, David Banman, Cornie Elias, Henry Elias, Alvina Braun, Mary Klassen, Susie Fehr, Sadie Fehr, Howard Braun. This picture was taken in front of the coal shed in 1964.