

Rudnerweide settlers came from East Reserve

• by J. C. Fehr

Travelling north and east of Rosetown, one comes to the district of Rudnerweide. It straddles the township line about seven miles west of Altona. This is one of those districts where the settlers thereof spent the first few years in the East Reserve. They came here possibly before 1880 and established a village on the western part of section 5-2-2W.

As early as 1884 attempts were made to establish this as a public school district. This apparently was not successful, as a private school operated here until 1922. This school was located just east of the graveyard still in use today.

When the village was broken up is not definite, but it could have been around 1900.

There was another private school on the west side of this district which was a small district in itself called Kronsgart. This school closed in 1914 and pupils then came to the Rudnerweide private school until a public school (No. 1752) was built on SW 6-2-2W. The public school was in operation until July 1, 1965, when it became part of Consolidated New Hope.

When the Sommerfelder congregation came into being in the 1890s they also had a church near the road south of the village. The church burned down in the Christmas-New Year season around 1908-10. A new church was built which in more recent years was moved to its present location on NW 5-2-2W.

Located as it is between two creeks, this district has probably the most consistent soil type in the lighter soil area. Most of the other districts in the lighter soil have heavier soil areas within their boundaries. Before the advent of fertilizer, this soil was not as productive as the heavier types. Many of the farmers at one time here had sheep. Today sheep are rather scarce in this part of the country.

Among the early settlers were two Penner brothers. Eventually seven sons of one and two of the other lived in this district. As a result many of



Students of Rudnerweide S.D. No. 1752 in 1943. Back row (l-r) — Teacher (Frank Driedger), Eddie Wiebe, Bill Loewen, Willie Wiebe, Harry Wiebe, Jake Janzen, George Ginter, Johnie Penner. Second row (l-r) — Liza Ginter, Sara Penner, Tina Wiebe, Magerete Wiebe, Annie Bergen, Evelyn Penner, Sara Bergen, Tina Kehler, Sara Wiebe, Helen Bergen. Third row (l-r) — Jack Loewen, Abe Peters, Jake Bergen, Johnie Hiebert, Jake Kehler, Johnie Penner, Frank Bergen. Front row (l-r) — Eva Wiebe, Dave Wiebe, Henry Dyck, Henry Thiessen, Johnie Peters, Lawrence Klassen, Johnie Dyck, Tina Klassen.



Also taken in 1943, this photo shows the common Greenway model of a school building.

them were commonly known by their nicknames. The recipients

of the nicknames do not always appreciate the use of them.

Nevertheless it is a common Mennonite tradition!