

Roseville: on the bank of Buffalo Lake

• by J. C. Fehr

This week we travel to what was one of the smallest districts in the R.M. of Rhineland located four miles north of Altona. Even though it is small, still it has an interesting history.

This district was first settled as a village in 1875, being one of the original ones. It was established in the middle of section 32-2-1W, two miles S.W. of Rosenfeld along the south side of Buffalo Lake. The name of the village was also called Rosenfeld. As to the reason why they chose to settle here separate from the other original villages one can only guess. Someone suggested they settled here beside the lake (it was a lake before the Buffalo Channel was built) as protection from prairie grass fires. Or maybe it was the exceptionally fertile soil right beside a good water supply. Whatever the reason, they were quite a distance from church headquarters. (Rhineland was more than twenty miles away). As a result they were soon assimilated with the settlers of the East Reserve who settled the surrounding area within the next few years. This has caused some frustration for people who wanted to trace their family tree, thinking they were of Bergthal background.

The village was broken up around 1896. The many trees of the village remained and for many years was a favorite spot for school picnics, wiener roasts, open air band concerts, gatherings, ball games, etc. The place was affectionately known as "The Bush".

The first school was held in private homes in the village. Later a yard was bought one half mile south of the village site, where the school operated until August 18, 1971. A public school district was established on February 1, 1920, by Order-in-Council, the official name being Clyde No. 1990, which was later changed to Roseville. Presently it is part of the Rhineland School Division.



Photo of school with teacher Heinrich Wiebe was taken before 1900. The school was in use until 1936 when a new school was built that is still on the yard today.



The second photo shows teacher Jacob E. Nikkel about 1912 as he took his students for a "trip" on a car at the end of the school year. Tina Klassen, Sarah Froese, Tina Zacharias, Tina Wiebe, Jacob Nikkel, Peter Klassen, John A. Funk, Diedrich E. Klassen, Jacob P. Zacharias, Abram J. Friesen, Abram Peters, Susie Penner, Tina Penner, Maria Froese, Anna Friesen, Helena Wiebe, Erdman Nikkel, Jacob Zacharias, Abram Zacharias, Diedrich Friesen, John Enns, David Wiebe, Johan Klassen, Abram Schmidt, Franz Zacharias, David K. Klassen, David J. Fehr, Martin Froese, David A. Klassen, were the pupils that year. The boys went along with horses and wagon while the girls could go along in the car owned by David K. Wiebe. The "trip" was to the town of Rosenfeld for treats — almost 3 miles from school!

In the early 1940s a community choir was organized by the then teacher, Miss K. Peters. Over the years the choir ex-

panded somewhat and today is known as the Ebenezer Choir, which brings regular programs at the Ebenezer Home. They

sing for the sheer joy of singing and after more than 40 years still have some of their original members!