

ECHO JAN. 16, 1985

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## Weidenfeld a village in 1876

• by J. C. Fehr

Adjoining Roseville on the west side is the district of Weidenfeld. The Buffalo Lake coming from the south passes through the eastern part of this district before making a 90-degree turn to the east. Indications are that on the west bank of the Buffalo the pioneers had settled as a village possibly as early as 1876. Memories of older persons recall having plowed through raised sections of earth where the homes supposedly had been. Also a 1858 five-Kopechi (a Russian coin) has been found there.

Some of the pioneers left relatives who settled in Minnesota on the way here from Russia. How long the village was in existence before they moved out to their homesteads is unknown.

The soil in this area near the Buffalo is exceptionally fertile and productive. Farther out to the west and south this district had a large area of bullrushes. A drain was constructed with horses to make this area useable. Later better drainage was made through that area.

This district was established as a public school district Weidenfeld No. 988 by Rhineland By-law No. 66 in the year 1898. A school was built on SW 36-2-2W, which was replaced by a new school around 1926-27. This new school operated until January



**Class of 1930-31: George Labun (Teacher), Benny Friesen, Peter Block, Ed-die Friesen, Jacob Nickel, Johnnie Block, Peter Friesen, Jacob Schroeder, Hans Siemens, Bernhard Friesen, David Epp, Peter Wiebe, Philip Schroeder, Leonard Schulz, Abram Friesen, Lena Epp, Edwin Nickel, Betty Ginter, Corny Schroeder, Annie Schroeder, Tina Friesen, Gertrude Schroeder, Susan Siemens, Lena Friesen, Dora Sawatsky, Agnes Friesen, Trudy Friesen, Betty Block, Lizzy Toews, Helen Friesen, Tina Neufeld.**

6, 1966, when it became part of Horndean and Rosenfeld.

Before it became a public school district the children were taught in private schools located in various private homes and different locations.

Much controversy existed in the years of transition from the private to public school, as was the case in many districts. They operated here

simultaneously until 1912 when the private school closed. The controversy did not end, however, as they experienced some difficult years (1916-19) when the district was run by the official trustee, Mr. Greenway. Records indicate that in the years 1905-1966 the total number of students that attended the Weidenfeld School was 469, with more

boys than girls.

A graveyard is located right next to the school site, but this district never had a church. The residents attended church services at Schoenthal when there was still a church there. One famous resident of this district was Bishop David Schulz, who was leader of the Bergthaler church for many years.