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Silberfeld: Densely populated

• by J. C. Fehr

The Silberfeld district is located between Altona and Gretna on the east side of Highway 30.

It was first organized as District No. 523 on January 10, 1888. Apparently nothing came of it as it was reformed and given a new number (No. 1590) on June 6, 1911.

Actually the district of Silberfeld originally consisted of two communities, Schoenhorst and Silberfeld, each having a private school.

These private schools on SE 21-1-1W and SE 23-1-1W operated until 1919 when they were closed and a public school was built on SE 22-1-1W to serve both communities.

In the 1930's and 40's the pupil count ranged from 40-50. The school district operated until 1966 when it consolidated with Gretna.

After the school closed it was moved to Gretna where it was used for one season and bought by a local resident who moved it back to the district.

Both Schoenhorst (the eastern part) and Silberfeld (the western part) were originally settled as villages; Silberfeld likely prior to 1880, one half mile east of Highway 30 and Schoenhorst at a diagonal three and one-half miles east of PTH 30 on Sections 24 and 13.

These villages disintegrated over the years and people established farmyards on the individual quarter sections. At one time this was quite densely populated with close to 50 residences on the eight sections of land that comprise this district.

Being an area that is a well drained, easy to work, with fertile soil, there were still 22 yards left in 1982, the time of a reunion held for this district.

There also was a Sommerfelder Church in the community, which served the area until possibly around 1960, when it



Silberfeld School boys, 1958: Boys in the above photo include: Allan Falk, John Sawatzky, Albert Martens, John Martens, Mel Reimer, Menno Friesen, Peter Abrams, Henry Martens, Willie Martens and Herb Hamm.



Silberfeld School girls, 1958: A few of the girls in above photo are: Jolene Hildebrand, Eva Martens, Mary Abrams, Hanna Zacharias, Ruth Driedger, Frieda Zacharias, Evelyn Abrams and Ruth Funk.



Silberfeld public school in early years. Later on, it was renovated and enlarged with a porch added as well. In the period from 1919 to 1966, a total of 21 teachers taught in the school.

was moved to Reinland to replace the old church there.

It was replaced by a new one within the last few years and

moved to Neuenberg where it was remodeled for a residence.

This area had no general cemetery, but rather, as was

the custom in many districts, private graveyards of about a dozen in number scattered throughout the district.