

THE HENNIG JOURNEY

WE REMAIN CONNECTED WHETHER SEA OR LAND DIVIDE US

Many of Harry Hennig's comments are taken from a recorded interview after Hulda Weinknecht Firus' funeral in 11/2000, followed up with the response to a series of questions in 10/2010 through 2/2011.

Freda Evans' comments are compiled from a series of interviews between 8/2010 and 2/2011.

Trudy Blanke's comments are compiled from a phone interview on 9/26/2010.

Horst Hennig's comments are compiled from a phone interview on 10/2/2010.

July 6, 1938 to Fall 1945 (Harry age 5 to 12, Senno 3 to 10, Freda birth to 7, Horst birth to 4, Trudy birth to 2)

Freda Ruth Hennig is born to Oswald (born 2/3/1906) and Ottilia (born 11/3/1906) Hennig at home on the family farm in Borowo, Konin County, Poland (near Konin and the river Warta). She was initially to be named Ruby, but somehow the name was not approved by the pastor that was to baptize her. Her mother, said, "She went to church a Ruby and came home a Frieda." She joined two older brothers; Harry (11/25/1932) five years old and Senno (12/9/1934) three years old. The "l" in Frieda was dropped when she became a citizen of the United States on 9/10/1959.



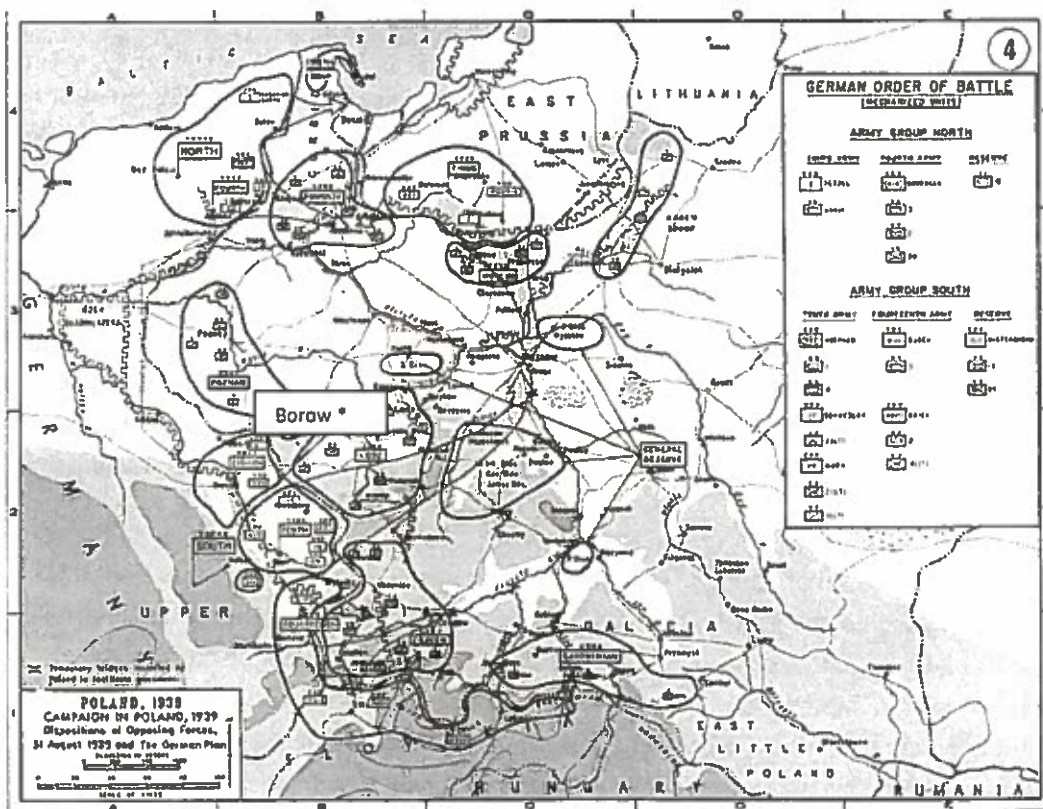
The farm where Freda was born was inherited from Ottilia's parents, Adolf & Helene Weinknecht, as Ottilia's siblings had either passed away (two in infancy and the eldest, Alma, at the age of about 16 presumably from internal injuries when she slipped on a ladder in a barn and fell to the concrete floor below) or immigrated to Canada (Hulda in 1927, Emelie and Karl together in 1928 at the ages of 16 and 19, respectively). The Eckerts (Helene's family) had been "millers"—they ground grain for consumption. In those days, people saved some grain from their harvest and would take it to the miller in small increments to be ground for daily use in the kitchen. Why were they Germans living in Poland? The answer is unknown. There were many Germans in Poland at the time. Freda reports that there were schools in their area taught entirely in German. The Hennig family spoke very little Polish. Note: Per her birth certificate, Ottilia was born Ottylia. This was changed to Ottilia on her passport and her Canadian social security card. However, on many documents she is listed as Ottilie. Also on her birth certificate, her mother's name is listed as Helena, but the Hennig children knew her as Helene.

The farm that Oswald and Ottilia inherited consisted of about 13 hectares (32 acres), which was about average sized for that time. They maintained a small orchard with some fruit trees (mainly apple and pear but also other fruits), as well as walnut and hazelnut trees and a small vineyard. They also grew potatoes, wheat, rye, barley, canola, and some hay. Several horses and 5 to 6 cows rounded out the livestock on the farm. The potatoes were stored in long pits in the ground. Farmers would dig a pit about 4' wide by 3' deep, drop in the potato harvest, and cover them with straw and dirt. That way they had potatoes until spring as this was a staple food. The grain was thrashed with a flail on a cement floor. Then the straw was taken off and the grain was cleaned with a fanning mill.



Ottilia Hennig, Senno Hennig, Helene Weinknecht, Freda Hennig, and Harry Hennig. This is the earliest known photo of Freda, who appears to be about one year old at the time.

Just over a year after Freda was born, the Nazis invaded Poland from the west on 9/1/1939 and WWII erupted. Germany had a substantial numerical advantage over Poland and had developed a significant military prior to the conflict. The Heer (army) had some 2,400 tanks to punch holes in the enemy lines, and the Luftwaffe (air force) provided 1,180 fighter aircraft and 1,390 dive bombers to disrupt lines of supply and communication. In total, Germany had close to 4,000 aircraft, most of them modern. A force of 2,315 aircraft was assigned to Weiss (German military operation). The bombers attacked cities causing huge losses amongst the civilian population through terror bombing. Due to its prior participation in the Spanish Civil War, the Luftwaffe was probably the most experienced, best trained, and best equipped air force in the world in 1939. By comparison, Poland had only about 600 aircraft; however, for the September campaign only 70% of those were mobilized. The Polish tank force consisted of two armored brigades, four tank battalions and some 30 companies of tankettes attached to infantry divisions and cavalry brigades. What modern aircraft the Polish Air Force had were caught on the ground. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invasion_of_Poland) (<http://www.worldwar2database.com/html/poland.htm>)



Dispositions of the opposing forces on 31 August 1939 with the German plan of attack overlaid. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invasion_of_Poland)

Freda's father, Oswald (born 2/3/1906 – the son of Adolf & Pauline Hennig of Drazno, Poland, Dronschno in German—a township the next village over from Borow—they also had a small farm), was drafted into the Polish Army with the Cavalry in 1937. Poland was one of the last countries to maintain a cavalry, with their army in 1939 totally unprepared for the new warfare it found itself in. Poland, like many armies, had large cavalry forces. This force of some 25,000 professional horse soldiers was reportedly the largest and best equipped cavalry in the world at the time of the German invasion. (<http://www.suite101.com/content/the-polish-wwii-cavalry-in-1939-a66108>) Oswald attended officer's school and became a Corporal. He was in the Polish Army 2 years and 3 months in the 7th Regiment Ulanc. He was enlisted in Minsk Mozovjetski, Poland.



Oswald on the left pictured with an unknown soldier. Date of picture unknown.



The gallant Polish cavalry awaits the Germans! The Blitzkrieg would leave them shattered. (<http://historyimages.blogspot.com/2009/09/poland-suffered-during-second-world-war.html>)

Not long after the German invasion of Poland, the Soviets responded in kind by invading the country on 9/17/1939 from the north and the east. Prior to the Soviet attack from the east, the Polish military's fall-back plan had called for long-term defense against Germany in the south-eastern part of Poland, while awaiting relief from a Western Allies attack on Germany's western border. However, the Polish government refused to surrender or negotiate peace with Germany. Instead, it ordered all units to evacuate Poland and reorganize in France. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invasion_of_Poland)

Poland had been divided among Germany, the Soviet Union, and Slovakia on 10/6/1938. Despite water barriers separating most of the spheres of interest, the Soviet and German troops met on numerous occasions. Overall, the civilians soon became indistinguishable from combatants, with the prior and forthcoming German occupation being one of the most brutal episodes of World War II, resulting in between 5.47 million and 5.67 million Polish deaths (about 20 % of the country's *total* population, and over 90 % of its Jewish minority) – including the mass murder of 3 million Poles in extermination camps like Auschwitz, in concentration camps, and in numerous ad hoc massacres, where civilians were rounded up, taken to a nearby forest, machine-gunned, and then buried, whether they were dead or not. The Soviet occupation between 1939 and 1941 resulted in the death of 150,000 and deportation of 320,000 of Polish citizens, when all who were deemed dangerous to the Soviet regime were subject to sovietization, forced resettlement, imprisonment in labor camps (the Gulags) or murdered, like the Polish officers in the Katyn massacre. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invasion_of_Poland)

With Oswald gone, the family employed a hired man and a "maid" as there was a lot of work to be done on the farm with a growing family. Everything was done by hand. Harry remembers helping haul manure, plowing fields, and cutting hay with a scythe. The hired man's name was Sechkew Grabinski and, according to Harry, he was very good to the Hennigs and they in turn were very good to him. Harry befriended him and stayed at his home many times.

Freda was so young in the early years of the war that she has no recollection of the events. She says that to the best of her knowledge the family was relatively unaffected by the early war, although her mother told her that she wrapped baby Freda in blankets and took to the surrounding fields to hide out in the early months of the war. They were in a rural area with little population which could have protected them from being attacked. We also know from historical maps that they were considered to be in an area taken over by Germany, so possibly as Germans living in Poland spared. They were also Lutheran, as opposed to the Jewish or Catholic religions that the communists seemed to target. Perhaps genetics played in their favor with their fair skin, blonde hair, and blue eyes. Freda surmises that since her Dad was drafted into the Polish Army and the communists respected women with many kids, their family was left alone. Harry

credits Mr. Grabinski with keeping the family alive. Harry recalls that whenever Polish police or Russian army men came around, Grabinski would defend the family by speaking well of them and asking them not to hurt this family. Additionally, a couple of times the officers were going to shoot Ottilia unless she gave them a watch or some rings, but she always came out "lucky". Both Freda and Harry commented that they knew people disappeared during this time, but it was unknown if they were fleeing, killed, or deported. Freda also stated that owning a radio was illegal and the families would gather with those that did own the contraband and listen for news other than that which was propagandized. Times were dangerous.

Over the next five years, the Polish government in exile kept functioning and through the many Polish military formations on the western and eastern fronts the Poles contributed to the Allied victory. Nazi Germany's forces were compelled to retreat from Poland as the Soviet Red Army advanced, which led to the creation of the People's Republic of Poland. The country's geographic location was shifted to the west and Poland existed as a Soviet satellite state. Poland largely lost its traditional multi-ethnic character and the communist system was imposed.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invasion_of_Poland)

Sometime after Germany invaded Poland Oswald was captured and became a German prisoner of war. He was released in 1940 and remained with the family until 1942. As a result of this reunion, two additional siblings joined Harry, Senno, and Freda. Horst was born on 12/11/1940 and Trudy followed on 5/16/1943.

When Trudy was born a choir of youngsters brought gifts and sang at Ottilia's window. Harry says that the reason for the celebration was because Hitler had moved into Poland and he wanted to encourage German people to produce more offspring to keep the race strong.



Harry! July 13.
Took the old picture in and
I am sending you a copy
give this to your sister
Freda. I think it would
be Spring 1943 - when your
sister Waltraut was born.
My Brother Artur was
born June 28, 42.

Picture and note given
to Harry Hennig by
Alice Henning Jager.
Her family was close
friends with the
Hennigs in Poland.
Freda Hennig, Hennig
maid, Gertrude
Henning, Henning
Mother, Artur Henning,
Alice Henning Jager.

In 1942 Oswald had to go and serve in the German Army. He had become an officer in the Polish Army and, when they lost, the Germans discovered that he was a German and could speak the language. Instead of killing him, they made him an officer in the German Army (also a Corporal). He was then re-directed to guard German POW's somewhere in the Scandinavian countries (most likely Norway, possibly Finland). Freda recalls receiving packages in the mail from him while he was in Scandinavia which mainly consisted of games and pointed shoes made of hides that resembled "munchkin" shoes that made the kids laugh. Trudy comments that her Dad had leg problems later in life that he attributed to laying in the trenches in Norway in sub zero temperatures.

Toward the end of World War II in 1944, as Britain and the United States approached the concentration camps in Poland from the west, the Soviet Union was advancing from the east. Freda (now 6 years old) recalls the Russians moving through the area. The Hennigs burned the family bible during this time so it would not be desecrated in the bedlam of war. Russian soldiers were coming through burning buildings, taking valuables, and raping women. Ottilia made herself look old and ugly in an attempt to not be noticed by the soldiers and was grateful that Freda and Trudy were very young. She also had to relinquish her wedding ring along with the any other valuables they had. Many were killed because they had either given their valuables to previous Russians or hidden them. Each family had a bunker (root cellar). Freda

remembers when the war was ending going into their bunker for a full day when a munitions train was going through the area and listening to many bombs being dropped that day.

As a result of the advancing red army, in the fall of 1944 Otilia readied a wagon to leave Poland for Germany. However, she thought better of traveling through the winter with herself, her mother (Helene aged 67 years old), and the five children (Harry 11, Senno 9, Freda 6, Horst 3, and Trudy 1 year old) for which she was responsible. She also was afraid that in the mass exodus from the country her young children would be trampled to death and knew that driving a team and wagon would be all but impossible with a baby. She decided her best chance of survival would be to stay put for the time being. This would prove to be an excellent decision, as this turned out to be an extremely cold winter and many people that did run away died in the freezing temperatures.

Freda started school in the fall of 1944 and went to school 2 to 3 months in Poland until the country became sovereign and all of the German schools were closed.



Picture taken on Freda's first day of school. It is believed that Horst is the little boy that can be seen tagging along on the far left by the fence. To Freda's right is Alice Henning Jager and to her right is Gertrude Henning.

As Poland was gaining its independence, the Hennigs lost ownership of their farm as German-owned farms and houses were handed over to the Polish. The millions of Germans still remaining in these areas were over a period of several years expelled and replaced by Polish and Soviet settlers. A Polish family with two daughters, one a little younger than Freda, gained control of the farm under the new communist regime. Freda considers her family lucky, however, as they were not mistreated by their new employers as many other Germans were enslaved. However, Otilia was reduced to hiding a milk bottle in the manger while she was milking what had been her cow to capture some milk for her young family. She would sneak out to the barn during the night and retrieve the bottle of milk. She was also "bossed around" by the young Polish children. (http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/refugees_01.shtml)
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_East_Germany#Creation.2C_1945-1949)

Around this time, Mr. Gabrinski, who was previously employed by the Hennig family when he was a teenager had become a member of the Polish police. He falsified Harry's birth certificate to make him a year younger than his natural age. Harry would have been about 13 years old at this time. Had he not completed this act, Harry would have eventually gone to the Russian front as a member of the "Volkssturm". The Volkssturm was a German national militia of the last months of World War II. It was founded on Adolf Hitler's orders on 10/1844 and conscripted males between the ages of 16 to 60 years who were not already serving in some military unit. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volkssturm>)

The end of World War Two brought in its wake the largest population movements in European history (at least 12 million people with some sources putting the figure at 14 million). Millions of Germans fled or were expelled from eastern Europe (about 7 million people). Many Germans in Poland were rounded up by the Polish militia, put in camps, and removed from the country. At the Potsdam Conference in July 1945, British, American and Russian leaders agreed to '... recognise that the transfer to Germany of German populations ... remaining in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, will have to be undertaken.' Poland expelled some 2.5 million Germans from the swathes of German territory

it received after the Potsdam conference of the Allied Powers in 1945. The Germans were expropriated and expelled under the act at the conference, accused of collaborating with the Nazi regime.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expulsion_of_Germans_after_World_War_II) (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/2063265.stm>)



The first mass movements begin with the advance of the Red Army westward. At the end of the Second World War, West Germany has to accommodate some 12 million refugees. (<http://www.ena.lu/>)

The Hennigs waited until the November of 1945 then left by train with thousands of other refugees. According to Harry, they chose to leave because the government would split the family up. First they accumulated the refugees in Konin, Poland. The family was loaded with many others into cattle cars and about every 20-30 km the train would stop and soldiers would unload and re-load the occupants only to move a similar short distance. Harry guesses that the decision had not yet been made on what would be the final destination. The Hennigs were on the train for over a week. Provisions that Freda recalls taking with them that were treasured possessions and may have saved their lives was a featherbed, a side of bacon, and a wedding portrait of Oswald and Otilia. As they stopped at train stations waiting for the next train, she also recalls seeing German soldiers emaciated and begging. Otilia would not share what food they had as she was trying to save her own family. The family scanned for a familiar face among the German soldiers to see if Oswald was among them. Trudy recalls her mother often remembering the train stopping at night to throw off the bodies of people that had perished on the journey and many of the remaining passengers would leave the train to scourge the fields for any kind of food that had been left behind that might keep them from starving.



Front and back of wedding photograph of Otilia Weinknecht Hennig and Oswald Hennig. (Wedding date: 8/8/31)

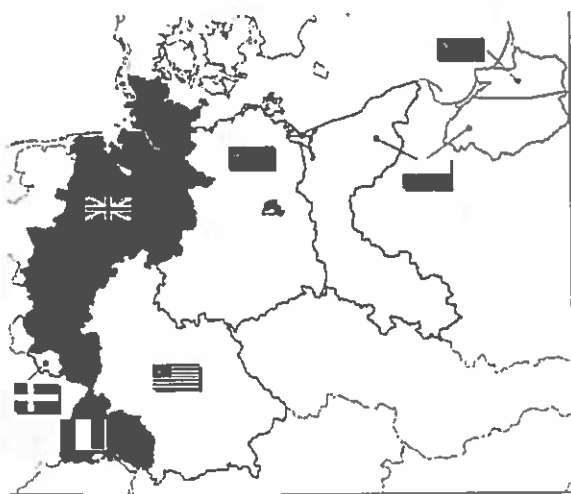
Freda, Harry, Horst, Otilia, Trudy, and Senno Hennig. (Circa 1945)



Fall of 1945 to Winter 1945 (Harry age 13, Senno 11, Freda 7, Horst 5, Trudy 2)

The family arrived in Graal Murtitz, East Germany, on the Baltic coast. They were placed in a refugee camp that basically consisted of a large building with many rooms. Harry indicates that before the war it was a great big summer resort, having been confiscated by communist Germany and a lot of wealthy landlords committed suicide, got murdered, or ran away to West Germany. The rooms contained maybe 40 to 60 people with families placed together in a large area of a room. There were no mattresses—just straw on the floor. Because it had been a summer resort, there was no heat. The winter was extremely cold—people were burning the resort's fancy furniture to get heat in the fireplaces. Food was rationed with the family of 7 receiving daily a loaf of bread and a pot of turnip soup that was mostly water. They also got a portion of oatmeal as Freda's little sister, Trudy, was so young. This was split between Trudy, Horst, and Helene. The Hennigs were a little better prepared as Ottilia had the foresight to bring the bacon and featherbed. Other refugees thought Ottilia was cruel because she wouldn't share, but they needed these provisions to enable their survival and many others were already extremely sick. Harry thought that Horst would never survive as he was such a fussy eater. Freda remembers being very weak from starvation—she could not walk far without being out of breath and having to rest. It was also very cold. A friend of Freda's was disciplined by her mother and she ran out into the cold and froze to death one night.

Western German sectors, controlled by France, the United Kingdom, and the United States, were merged to form the *Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)*; the Soviet Zone became the *German Democratic Republic (East Germany)*. East Germany was an Eastern bloc state under political and military control by the USSR via the latter's occupation forces and the Warsaw Pact. While claiming to be a democracy, political power was solely executed by leading members (*Politburo*) of the communist-controlled SED (*Socialist Unity Party of Germany*). Their power was ensured by the Stasi, a secret service of immense size, and a variety of SED suborganizations controlling every aspect of society. West Germany, established as a federal parliamentary republic with a "social market economy", was allied with the United States, the UK and France. While East German propaganda was based on the benefits of the GDR's social programs and the alleged constant threat of a West German invasion, many of her citizens looked to the West for political freedoms and economic prosperity. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_East_Germany#Creation.2C_1945-1949) (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany>)



Post-WWII occupation zones of Germany, in its 1937 borders, with territories east of the Oder-Neisse line shown as annexed by Poland and the Soviet Union, plus the Saar protectorate and divided Berlin. East Germany was formed by the Soviet Zone, while West Germany was formed by the American, British, and French zones in 1949 and the Saar in 1957. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany>)

Winter of 1945 to Spring of 1946 (Harry age 14, Senno 11, Freda 8, Horst 5, Trudy 3)

Probably by train, the Hennigs left the first refugee camp and arrived in Rostock, East Germany. They lived in another very large building similar to the first camp. When they arrived they were stripped of their clothes that were cooked in big ovens to de-louse them. There was running water and they were allowed to sponge bathe. Harry reports that the living conditions at the camp were better, as the rations improved.

Ottilia and Harry worked in the fields and were paid with food (mainly milk for Trudy and Horst, bread and potatoes). Occasionally Ottilia would go out at night and steal potatoes. Freda recalls Ottilia relaying a story that she took Harry with her one night. He was afraid, made too much noise thinking that he heard other people catching them, and dropped some of the potatoes in his fear. He was subsequently relieved of this duty.

Oswald during this time became a POW (possibly late 1945) in England having been captured at sea by the British. The circumstances are unknown. The British took his wedding ring and he was reportedly not treated very well by the British. He was then transferred to West Germany to a low security encampment where the soldiers were treated much better. They were put to work during the day and locked up in camps at night. He did not know that his family was also in Germany by now, and his family did not know if he was dead or alive.

Note: In Oswald's family there were six children in suspected order of birth: Gustow, Oswald, Karl, Leopold, Lydia, and Oscar. Gustow was married and had four children (Helmut, Hedwig, Gertrud, and Oscar). He was they mayor of Borow for many years. For unknown reasons, he was taken to Siberia after the war and died there most likely due to an injury sustained in a logging accident at a labor camp. Karl never married, was drafted into the Germany Army, and was lost n the war. Leopold got married when Harry was about 8 years old, was drafted into the Germany Army, and was Missing In Action. He had one child. It is unknown what happened to his wife and child. Lydia married Adolf Betke, immigrated to East Germany, and had two children (Senno who immigrated to Australia and Leopold who remained in Friedrichfelde, Germany and had two children, Petro and Dirk). Oskar was a train conductor in Giesseland and never married. He was a short, chubby guy who gave Oswald's kids chocolate bars according to Harry and was never married. He was also drafted into the Germany Army and was also Missing In Action. Thus, Oswald lost all of his brothers in the war.

Spring of 1946 to April, 1951 (Harry age 14 to 18, Senno 11 to 16, Freda 8 to 12, Horst 5 to 10, Trudy 3 to 7)

The family was again moved by train to Goldbeck, East Germany. They traveled through Berlin and Freda, eight years old, remembers the Red Cross at the train station there handing out American white bread to the refugees and, having never seen this type of bread before, they thought it was cake.

For a short time the family moved into a huge building called "Wanderheim" in which each family had a room. Horst reports that the Wanderheim had previously been a residence for local transients. Freda can't recall how long they were here, but this is when she started school at the age of eight in the neighboring town of Siebmanshorst. She was instructed that if she could read and do some math she could start school in the second grade. With some tutoring from a teenage boy she was able to accomplish this task. Horst also started school in Siebmanshorst at age 7. Both kids along with Senno continued school there through Grade 4, as this particular school only continued education through the fourth grade. This is the only formal schooling that Senno would receive throughout his lifetime.

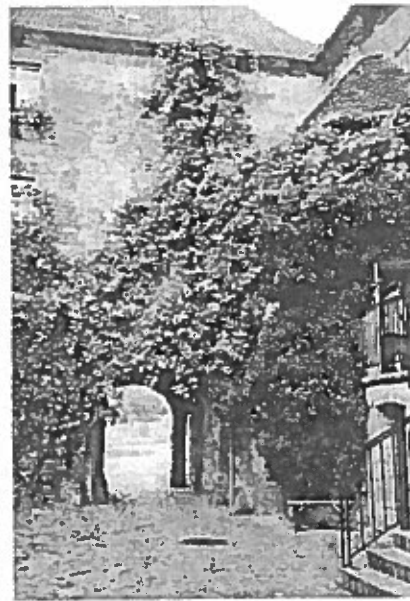
Harry reports that while living in East Germany you didn't even breathe politics. When he first started school in 1946 or 47, the teachers would try to get information out of the kids. They would say to the kids, "You make sure you come and tell us what your Mom and Dad are talking about at home." They wanted us to spy on our families, so we would never speak about politics.

The Hennig family moved onto a big farm that had been split, as all of the land had been taken away from the bigger land owners. Ottilia applied for and was granted a few acres to farm on which she raised potatoes, beets, sugar beets, rye, and other grains. They were also granted a stall in a huge barn and the use of a horse as all farm work had to be done with horses. During this time there was also a lottery in which Ottilia was able to acquire a cow for which the family was very grateful, as they now had milk.



Harvesting root vegetables in the agricultural cooperative at Triwillershagen, a former "Junker" estate, 1945 divided into plots for local farmers who then joined the cooperative which provides machinery and seeds. (<http://www.lesing-photo.com/dispimg.asp?i=59222637A&cr=4&cl=1>)

Still in Goldbeck, East Germany, the family was moved to a compound that was the residence of a wealthy family (the word is "burg" in German, pronounced "burk"). They moved the family into 3 rooms of this "castle". Freda indicates that it was a big house with fancy living quarters on one side, a dismantled distillery on the other side, and a courtyard in the center.



Pictures taken by Horst on a trip to Germany in 1990 after the reunification of Germany. Upper left: Entrance to the burg. The Hennig apartment was behind the three windows on the second level. Upper middle: Stairs just inside the entrance leading to their apartment. Door on second level led to the Hennig kitchen. Their apartment was to the left where the grape vine can be seen growing. When the Munchs' moved to Wittstock, the Hennigs also moved into the apartment behind the windows to the left of the door. Upper right: The inside of the entrance leading to the burg taken from the courtyard. The stairs leading to the Hennig apartment can be seen to the right. Lower left: The back of the burg which was the old distillery.

Trudy recalls a hill behind the burg on which the kids played hours of soccer. She remembered it as a big hill, but upon returning later in life found that it was just a little knoll. Horst sustained lots of skinned knees due to rough soccer play with his sister. Trudy also had a penchant for climbing things. Both she and Freda remember her climbing up the grapevines in the above pictures to scavenge grapes. She fell out of a tree once onto a pointed rock and still bears a scar from the wound patched up by a local nurse.

Oswald returned to the family in the fall of 1946 under amazing circumstances. He and Ottilia had each written to Ottilia's sister, Hulda, who was living in Canada. While it's amazing that each of them remembered Hulda's address, it's even more astounding that both letters arrived on the same exact day. This is how they found each other. Trudy remembers her father's return distinctly. She was out playing and saw a soldier walking down the street toward them, but not having seen him since she was a baby did not recognize this man as her father.

Harry's Great Escape – April, 1951 to August, 1951 – Age 18

Reunited, the Hennigs continued to operate the small farm. Harry was now 18 years old and communist East Germany wanted to make him a member of their "police" (communist soldier) so he could serve his time in their military. They were living in East Germany, but Russia ruled and he did not want to go.

The family maintained contact with Ottilia's siblings that had immigrated to Canada (Hulda, Karl, and Emelie). Harry contacted Karl and asked him if he would help Harry make arrangements to immigrate to Canada as well. However, as communist East Germany would not allow Harry to leave the country, he had to first escape into West Germany (a democratic and capitalistic state where he would be allowed to relocate to Canada) before the process of immigration could even begin. Hulda Hennig Firus (married to Bill Firus) had a sister-in-law (Crista Firus Ristau) in Wolfsburg, West Germany, near the Volkswagen factory, so it was decided that Harry would go there.

Once it became obvious that repatriation plans left a large number of displaced persons (DPs) who needed homes, it took time for countries to commit to accepting refugees. Existing refugee quotas were completely inadequate, and by the fall of 1946, it was not clear whether the remaining DPs would ever find a home. Canada first accepted a number of refugees through Orders in Council and then implemented a bulk-labor program to accept qualified labor and a close-relatives plan that ultimately took the form of a sponsorship plan. By the end of 1951, Canada had accepted 157,687 refugees. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Displaced_Persons_camp)

Harry: *"I sneaked across the border on Easter Monday in 1951 and I was there four months until the documents to Canada were completed. The way I did it was by coincidence. Dad and Mom knew some people that lived in a town where the border was between East and West Germany. They were people just like us that came across from Poland. We went to visit those people, Dad came with me, with the idea of me sneaking across. They had a girl that was maybe 18, and she knew the border patrol and kept them busy. Then this girl went down and you could see the border and there was just a little creek (just a little one) and there was a bush and a lot of trees. You could see the border police. She went and talked to them. She knew those guys and she kind of kept them entertained. Her family had kind of a garden with trees and junk, so in the meantime while she kept them occupied, I went down and kind of sneaked across. The water was maybe up to your ankles. It wasn't very deep. They must have heard rustling so then the border guy shot in the air once. I ran like heck as I didn't want to be caught because I might never have a chance like that again. I went maybe 400-500 yards through a kind of forest and bush where there were some West German Police. So then I just showed them the passport and I told them the truth that I was going to Canada. They were really nice. I had to walk about 3 km and there was a railway station. I had a little money and I just bought a ticket. It was about 30 km to Crista's home. I was there for 3 ½ months."*

"I came to West Germany in April and I was there until August 5th until all of my papers to come to Canada were in order. Then I got to Canada on August 18th, 1951. In West Germany while I was waiting I didn't do too much. I worked for Crista. When she was younger she worked in the hospital, but she wasn't a nurse. They had a good sized farm, so I worked for them quite a bit helping them out and such. I worked a few odd jobs for others. I was 18 then."

"It was ten days on the ship and I landed in Quebec harbor from Germany and then three days to get to Swift Current. All of the family was there to greet me. There must have been twenty people or more. Aunti Hulda Firus said I was such a skinny little kid. But I made it and I am still here. I didn't know any English. What impressed me the most, it is funny,

everybody had cars. I thought to myself, over there you think of only the rich people having cars. I always thought he has a shack of a house so how can he have a car. I will never forget that, every house you came to there was a little house but there was a car sitting. My relation to an automobile was you are a millionaire and then you have a car because that was how it was over there, so I will never forget that was my first impression of Canada. That was the best move I ever made-to come to Canada."



"I said when I first got here that if it wasn't for the water I would have walked back because I couldn't speak the language. I lived with Uncle Karl and we went to the Firus' a lot, just about every Sunday. The first of September 1951 Uncle Karl enrolled me in school. I went to school that winter until the end of April, 1952 just so I could get the basic knowledge of English and then Uncle Karl got me a job on the Canadian Pacific Railroad (CPR) and I worked there for 28 years. I loved working there."

"My trip to come to Canada I think cost Uncle Karl around \$380 which I paid back to him. Then I started to save my money so I could bring the rest of the family to Canada. When I started on the CPR I made \$.64 per hour and that was considered good wages."

"When you are young I guess you can adapt better, but it didn't take me long. Another thing I said when I first came to Canada was I liked it that on the CPR there were all kinds of different nationalities and especially me I couldn't speak English worth a hoot but I was only here six months then. You speak broken and you mix things up but those guys on the CPR they were good. We had a ball. They would make jokes and then they would correct you. It didn't matter because there were Ukrainian, Polish, German, and Mennonite, but that was the impression I got of North America. Everybody was an immigrant except the Indians, but that was why I liked it so much. Because it didn't matter what you were, now you were Canadians."

April, 1951 to May, 1953 (Senno age 16 to 18, Freda 12 to 14, Horst 10 to 12, Trudy 7 to 10)

With Harry gone from the fold, the rest of the Hennig family continued to farm and remained in East Germany. However, as part of the communist form of government in that country, all farms had a quota. The quota was raised each year for good farms, thus less was left for the family on which to live. The Hennigs eventually decided that this was

not a good way of life for their family, so they made the decision to escape into West Germany to then relocate to Canada where Otilia's siblings and now their son Harry had settled.



In West-Germany, single farmers existed outside the state-sponsored collective farms. When single farmers had fulfilled their plan, they could sell what was left of their products on the free market. A farmer's wife sells cabbage on a market near Rostock, East Germany.
(<http://www.lessing-photo.com/dispimg.asp?i=59222637A&cr=4&cl=1>)

Freda has said that Emil & Anna had offered to keep her there with them in East Germany as they had no children. They indicated that Freda would inherit the house that they had acquired. Oswald and Otilia would not accept their offer. The Munch's had been friends of the family for many years, in fact Anna was Freda's Godmother. Freda also stayed with the Munch's in Wittstock, East Germany, during the week while she attended school in that town after the fourth grade. Horst also attended school in Wittstock through Grade 6.

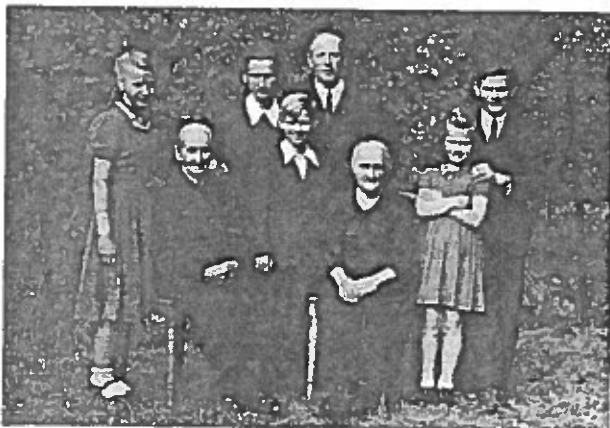


Photo of the family taken in the Fall of 1952. Freda Hennig, Helene Weinknecht, Otilia, Horst, Oswald, Pauline, Trudy, and Senno Hennig. Note: Oswald's father would not leave Poland, so Pauline stayed until he died. Then she joined the family in Goldbeck, East Germany sometime in the timeframe 1948-49. Pauline died in 1960 and is believe to be buried by her daughter Lydia somewhere in East Germany.

Photo taken on the same day as photo above at the home of Emil and Anna Munch in Wittstock. Anna Munch (Freda's Godmother), Freda Hennig, and Emil Munch.



Helene Weinknecht (5/3/1877) died in December, 1952 at the age of 75 and is buried in Goldbeck, Germany. Interesting fact about Helene; she was one of 21 children in her family.



Photo of the family at Helene's gravesite. Trudy, Oswald, Freda, Ottilia, Horst, and Senno Hennig.



Photo of Anna Munch (Freda's Godmother) at Helene's gravesite.

Freda recalls being asked to give a few words at a memorial service for Stalin at school in Goldbeck on the day the family was to leave. She was not able to tell her teachers or classmates that she would not be participating in the event, as her family was running away from East Germany shrouded in secrecy. She also tells that the Sunday before they left, she entrusted a friend with the information that if her family should turn up missing to go get Freda's treasured bicycle, as she did not want the communists to have it.

There was no wall yet in Berlin, but there were many checkpoints in the city for those travelling by auto or foot. However, the trains still operated freely from East Berlin into West Berlin (the Berlin wall was not erected until 1961). At the end of 1946, the Soviet Military Administration in Germany had created an East German border police tasked with preventing *Republikflucht* (escape from the East German republic). With the erection of the Inner German border in 1952, East Germany was to a large degree sealed off from the west. However, Berlin, and particular the public transport system that criss-crossed between the western Allied and Soviet sectors was still a hole in that iron curtain. Accordingly, Berlin became the main route by which East Germans left for the West. The 3.5 million East Germans that had left by 1961 totaled approximately 20% of the entire East German population, many using the Friedrichstrasse station with its bustling traffic as the starting point for their escape. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin_Friedrichstra%C3%9Fe_station)



The station in the early 1950's.
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin_Friedrichstra%C3%9Fe_station)

The family sent some packages to a female cousin of the family (Evilena Piske?) in West Berlin. Oswald and Senno took the train one evening and stayed the night with her. The rest of the family followed the next morning—fourteen year old Freda with Trudy (age 9) in one part of the train and Ottilia with Horst (age 12) elsewhere in the train so as not to draw attention. Freda remembers wearing probably three dresses and a coat and was afraid of being searched. She surmises that if they would have been caught they would have been hauled off to Siberia for running away. Trudy was simply told that the family was going on an excursion, as they were afraid at her young age that she would elude to the fact that they were running away and the police would find out what the family had been planning.

May 1953 to July 1953 (Senno age 18, Freda 14 to 15, Horst 12, Trudy 10)

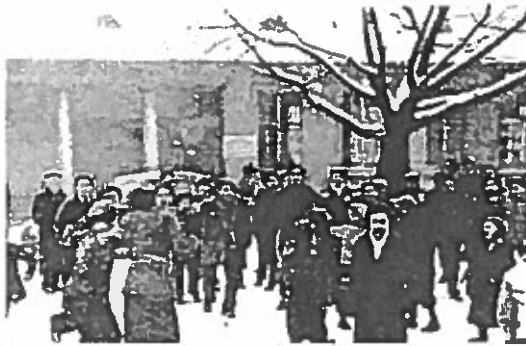
Having escaped into West Germany and gathering the necessary documents for immigration and waiting for paperwork to be completed, the family moves into a big building in a refugee camp in West Berlin. They had just the bare necessities, but now had beds and lots of food that was reportedly very good. There was a main kitchen in which the food was served and each person took it to their bed to eat. Freda recalls passing time by walking around the city, visiting Evilena, and attending school for a couple of hours each afternoon. Note: Oswald contacted the Polish man who had forged Harry's birth certificate years earlier to obtain a copy of Freda's birth certificate for immigration. The document was in Polish and later had to be translated to English. It was taken from Freda when she immigrated to the US years later.

July 1953 (Senno age 18, Freda 15, Horst 12, Trudy 10)

The family was flown from West Berlin to Hannover, West Germany in an effort to make room for more refugees escaping from East Germany. Freda notes that the airplane they were to take out of Berlin was delayed, as Queen Elizabeth was being crowned in England and all of the planes in the area were in use flying dignitaries to the ceremony. The Hennigs then made their way from the airport immediately to the train station. Freda is now 15 years old.

July 1953 to August 1953 (Senno age 18, Freda 15, Horst 12, Trudy 10)

The family was transported by train to Ulm, Germany. They lived in a long, two storied building in a refugee camp. Sometime in the evening the gates were locked, but Freda and others that were skinny enough were able to slide through the gate and wander around the city at night. They swam in the Danub during the day and explored a huge church that was in the compound. This is where they encountered American soldiers for the first time.



Until 2000 little was known about Displaced Persons in Ulm. But the discovery of a bundle of Yiddish documents in a decayed house in Ulm initiated the research, which led to the discovery of the history of one of the largest DP camp structures in southern Germany. Ulm, being also a place, where a lot of forced labourers, 'Zwangsarbeiter', suffered under the Nazi regime, faced problems and questions from the displaced persons from the very moment of the liberation from the dictatorship onwards. A lot of the former Wehrmacht barracks in the city became homes for the DPs and also a great number of private houses in the area were requisitioned. (<http://www.dpcamps.org/ulm.html>)

 	
Unterscheid des Polizeibüro <i>Städt. Pol. Hennig</i> und eines Hofes <i>Städt. Hennig</i>	
Nr: 4050977	

Ulm (Donau) am 21 Juli 1953 STADT ULM für Abwärtliche Ordnung Passwesen <i>Heich</i>	
Nr: 4050977	

PERSONENBESCHREIBUNG	
Name <i>Hennig Oswald</i>	
Geburtsdatum <i>2 Februar 1906</i>	
Geburtsort <i>Dronschins</i>	
Geburtsort <i>bei Komon / Polau</i>	
Größe in cm und Gewicht <i>168 Kilogramm</i>	
Haarfarbe <i>blau</i>	
Farbe der Augen <i>blau</i>	
Unverletzliche Kennzeichen <i>fehlen</i>	
Beruf <i>Zenker</i>	
Wohnort <i>Ulm / Donau</i> <i>Sedanstraße 60</i>	
Nr: 4050977	

PERSONENBESCHREIBUNG	
BIRBKRAU	
Name <i>Hennig geb. Heinknecht Ottilie</i>	
Geburtsdatum <i>5 November 1906</i>	
Geburtsort <i>Zorow bei Komon</i>	
Größe in cm und Gewicht <i>168 Kilogramm</i>	
Haarfarbe <i>schwarz</i>	
Farbe der Augen <i>blau</i>	
Unverletzliche Kennzeichen <i>fehlen</i>	
Beruf <i>Hausfrau</i>	
Wohnort <i>Ulm / Donau</i> <i>Sedanstraße 60</i>	
Nr: 4050977	

August 1953 to October 1953 (Senno age 18, Freda 15, Horst 12, Trudy 10)

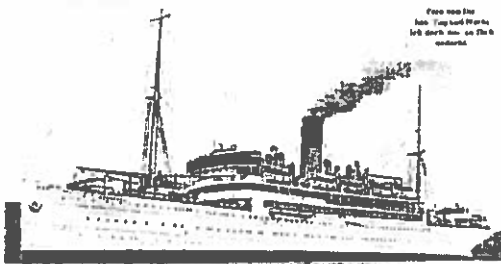
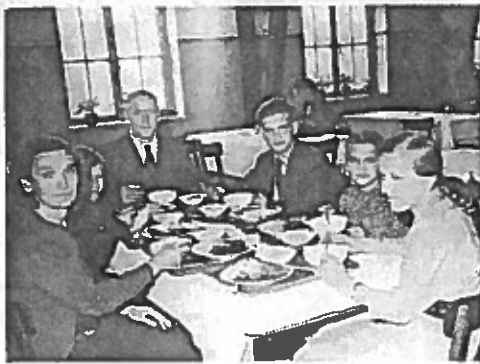
Yet another train took the Hennigs to Mosbach, Germany. They were taken from the train station to Billingham, Germany on their first ride in an automobile which happened to be a Mercedes. Freda returned to school. After school she and the other children picked potatoes and helped the local farmers. Sometimes they ate with these families and she had her first taste of "hard cider". They left here to be near the consulate as their paperwork had been completed and they had permission to immigrate to Canada. Harry worked hard at the CPR to sponsor the rest of his immediate family to come to Canada. A total of \$1,800 was paid for passage for the remaining six family members.

October 1953 (Senno age 18, Freda 15, Horst 12, Trudy 10)

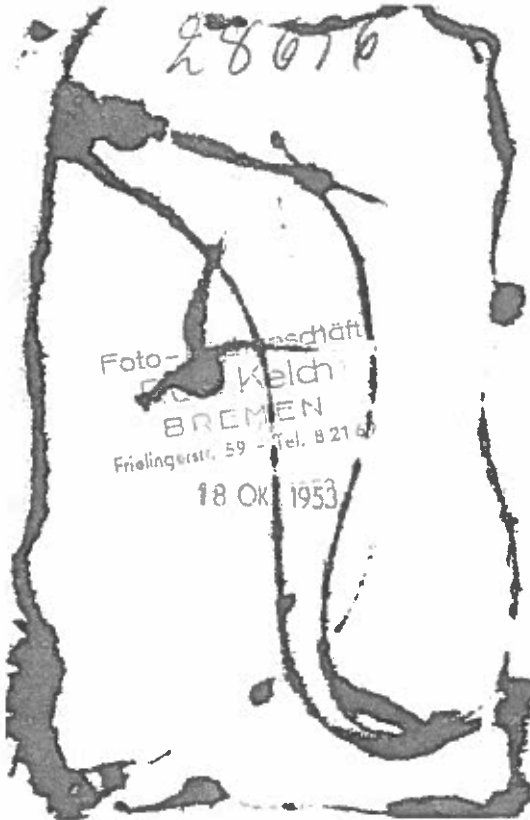
The family took the train to Karlsruhe, Germany, to be near the consulate. They remained here for approximately one week, as Freda, Horst, and Trudy each had a cold and could not be processed while they were ill. They were nursed in a hospital until they were well enough to complete the paperwork and make the journey.

Late October 1953 (Senno age 18, Freda 15, Horst 12, Trudy 10)

The Hennigs travelled by train to Bremen, West Germany, to catch the boat at Bremerhaven, West Germany (port).



13 „CAMBERCA“ in Bremerhaven vor der Ausfahrt nach Canada
Foto von der
Brem. Foto- und
Kunst-Verl. 18
Oktober 1953



Translation of poem at the bottom of postcard:
We come and we go, it cannot be otherwise,
Oh, we meet again, rejected only by God alone.
We have found what love calls,
So we remain connected, whether sea or land divide us!



A Borowo, Konin County, Greater Poland

H Mosbach, Germany (181 km)

B Graal Murtitz, Germany (622 km)

I Billigheim, Germany (11.6 km)

C Rostock, Germany (24.9 km)

J Karlsruhe, Germany (109 km)

D Goldbeck, Germany (218 km)

K Bremen, Germany (579 km)

E Berlin, Germany (141 km)

L Bremerhaven, Germany (68.2 km)

F Hanover, Germany (286 km)

G Ulm, Germany (549 km)

TOTAL = 2,790 km

October 18, 1953 to October 31, 1953 (Senno age 18, Freda 15, Horst 12, Trudy 10)

The family left the dock in Bremerhaven and docked twice more to pick up additional immigrants at Le Havre, France and South Hampton, England. The ship took on more passengers off the coast of Ireland, stopping to have the immigrants ferried out to them. Freda reports that after they stopped near Ireland, the seas were very rough due to the time of year that they were travelling. She also remembers that they were on a huge oceanliner and they took some pictures.

Ottilia was already feeling the effects of seasickness while the ship was still docked. The porter came with pills to relieve her illness, to no avail. Freda "puked for six days". Horst and Trudy were equally ill. Oswald was not sick. In fact, he stated that it was all in their heads and they just needed some fresh air. He proceeded to take Trudy up on deck and she threw up all over him. He left them alone for the rest of the trip. Freda was in the bottom bunk in their room, and Trudy distinctly remembers her taking off a ring that she owned and hanging it by a chain from the top bunk. She watched it swing back and forth and proclaimed that she was going to die, so she needed to absolve herself of all her worldly possessions.

A sure sign that they were headed for rough seas was the inclusion of a railing around the table to keep the dishes corralled at dinner. The dining tables seated 18, and for many days Oswald was the only passenger that appeared for the meal. Trudy remembers a terrible storm during which the captain cut the engines as they crested the high waves.

The day before they were to arrive in Quebec, a launch came out from immigration to check their documents and to search their meager belongings. Freda remembers that the Jews were searched more thoroughly.

October 31, 1953 to November 3, 1953 (Senno age 18, Freda 15, Horst 12, Trudy 10)

At the end of October they arrived in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. They took the train across Canada for three days and arrived in Herbert, Saskatchewan on Ottilia's birthday on November 3rd.

Freda's recollection of the train ride was that Canada was a wilderness with lots of big cars and little houses. They stopped in Montreal to eat and she thought that the people dressed fancy. They did not change trains during this trip—their car, containing only refugees, was simply unhooked and re-attached to another train. Trudy indicates that she was amazed at going miles and miles and seeing virtually nothing. Germany was heavily populated and Canada was so sparse. She also remembers landing in Quebec City and going with her Dad to buy some bread and sausage for the journey. She thought it was interesting that there was fresh produce on the shelves in the store—in Germany there had only been canned fruits and vegetables in the winter. She had never tasted an orange before.

November 3, 1953 – Adjusting (Senno age 18, Freda 15, Horst 12, Trudy 10)

Oswald and Ottilia were in Germany six years and then came to Canada. They came over to a country with a different language and strange customs. Oswald was 47 when he arrived in Canada, and, according to Harry, he never really liked it there. Oswald said many times that he would like to go back, saying that if it weren't for the kids he would have gone back. He worked very hard for his age, working for McWilliam Construction and Zaccaria doing "bull work". He helped wheelbarrow concrete while they were building a power plant in the area. He also did rough carpentry work, framing and roofing houses. Harry feels that it would have helped if Oswald would have come to Canada when he was younger. Trudy feels that he resented coming to Canada at first, as they made the journey mostly to be near Ottilia's family, but that he came to like living there in his later years. Horst indicates that the age, language barrier, and hard work after they immigrated lead Oswald to wish that he could go back. Oswald stated many times that he wished he could have died in Germany.

Ottilia was quite content, with her family surrounding her and the family earning enough to get by. NOTE: Ottilia's siblings immigrated to Canada for a better life as well. The Hennig family somehow knew the Busse family and that is how they came to be near Herbert, SK. As previously mentioned, Hulda came first to Canada, followed by Karl and Emelie a couple of years later. Ottilia would follow some thirty years later. Hulda married Wilhelm Firus in 1929. They settled in Herbert and had five children: Harry Firus, Heinz Alec (Al) Firus, Doreen Firus Cornelson, Harold Firus, and Shirley Firus Carter. Emelie married Berthold Busse in 1929 and also settled in Herbert. Berthold had four children from a previous marriage, three of whom were grown. The fourth child, Alma Lang, was later joined by their children

together: Elly Busse Moe and Ruby Busse Martinson. Karl married Elizabeth Semenock in 1939 and settled in Swift Current. They had three children: Betty Weinknecht Twamley, Gloria Weinknecht Shabits, and Glen Weinknecht.

The Hennigs moved into a small house on Otilia's brother's (Karl) farm with no electricity or running water. Oswald used his carpentry skills to build a harness to haul water up from the spring below the house. They remained until at least 1958 when they bought a farm north of Swift Current.

None of the Hennig family knew English. Karl's wife, Elizabeth, found them a teacher (Mrs. Fleming) who had eight Chinese immigrants to whom she was teaching English. Freda, Trudy, and Horst attended school with Mrs. Fleming for about six weeks until Christmas, 1953. Trudy's recollection of this schooling was the Chinese students would talk in their native language and laugh amongst themselves. This left the Hennig children wondering what was so funny?



Mrs. Fleming's class. Horst can be seen in the foreground near the center of the picture. Trudy is behind him with Freda peeking out behind her.

Then all three children were placed into third grade in a public school (Elmwood Elementary School). In March, 1954, Freda was advanced to eighth grade, Horst was placed in seventh grade, and Trudy became a fifth grader. In June, Freda took high school entrance exams and passed much to her surprise. However, she could not remain in school as the family did not have the money to buy her books and pay her tuition.

Freda got a job waitressing in Swift Current. She was engaged to Siegfried Neumann in the spring of 1954 and they were married on 4/11/1955 in Herbert, Saskatchewan. He lived in the United States, so she had to travel to the consulate in Winnipeg to get her papers in order once again. She immigrated to the United States sight unseen. Four children were born to this union (Gordon Neumann, Bruce Neumann, Sharon Neumann Dubbs, and Karen Neumann Latka). Sig died at the age of 42 on 1/1/1969 of stomach cancer. Freda remarried Thomas Evans on 5/1/1972 who accepted the children as his own. They remain married and live on a ranch outside of Stanford, Montana, USA.



From L to R: Gloria Somerfeld, Emil Neumann, Doreen Firus, Siegfried Neumann, Freda Hennig Neumann, Helmut Neumann, Ruby Busse, Harold Firus, Gloria Weinknecht.



From L to R: Tom Evans, Freda Hennig Evans, Trudy Hennig Blanke, Jerry Evans.

Horst finished the twelfth grade in Swift Current. During the summer before twelfth grade (7/1959), he got a job at the Co-op in town selling and delivering furniture. He remained at the Co-op until 1967, at some point having moved into the hardware department. He married Alice Hennig on 10/9/1965. In 1967 he began work at Canadian Helium, the only helium plant in Canada, first filling bottles and eventually operating the plant. He continued to work there until the plant closed in 1978. Horst purchased his first quarter of land north of Swift Current in 1962, but the couple continued to live in town until 1975 when they moved out to the farm where they continue to reside. Two children were born to this union (Barry Hennig and Barbara Hennig King).



From L to R: ?, ?, Tilly?, Horst Hennig, Alice Olson Hennig, Harry Hennig, ?, Senno Hennig.

Trudy continued to attend school through the tenth grade. She was then engaged to Henry Blanke. While she was engaged, she took a job at a department store in Swift Current. Trudy and Henry were married on 5/28/1960 and moved to Henry's family farm south of Swift Current. Three children were born to this union (Brian Blanke, Allen Blanke, and Lori Blanke Warren). They remained on the farm until 1996 when they built a home in town where they currently reside.



From L to R: Janet Hennig, Horst Hennig, Freda Hennig Neumann, Henry Blanke, Trudy Hennig Blanke, Arnold Lang, Shirley Firus.

After Harry immigrated in 1951, he began work at the Canadian Pacific Railroad (CPR) in 5/1952. He got married to Marie Hennig in 1954. At the time the steam engine era was ending and the diesel era started. It looked like everybody was going to lose their jobs at the CPR. Afraid of losing his job without much education, he and Marie decided to sell

their house in town and purchase some land. They did so and started building a house north of Swift Current in 1957 where they lived until 1959. They sold that land, moved back to town, and bought a half section of land also north of town. He continued to work at the CPR mostly at night and farm during the day, buying more land as money allowed until 1980. In 1980 he quit the CPR after 28 years at the age of 48. They moved to the farm north of Swift Current and put up a modular home where they remain to this day. Four children were born to the Harry Hennigs; Janet Hennig Hut, Deborah Hennig, Valerie Hennig Franchuk, and Craig Hennig.



From L to R: Back Row: Horst Hennig, Trudy Hennig. Middle Row: Senno Hennig, Ottilia Hennig, Oswald Hennig. Front Row: Bettv Twamlev, Freda Hennig, Marie Hennig, Harry Hennig, Siegfried Neumann, Harry Firus, ? Friend.

Senno worked for the Berthold and Emelie Busse at Hollenquist, Sask doing farm work as a hired man, subsequently working for a rancher at Val Marie, Sask. Then he was hired by the CPR with some help from his brother, Harry. He was sideswiped by a train while at work and received a concussion. He continued to work there for awhile after being released from the hospital. He later moved to the farm with Oswald & Ottilia when they bought land. Senno lost a finger while living at Karl's farm. He found a dynamite fuse under a building and tried to light it. The dynamite exploded and blew off his finger. He was a real lover of kids—he would chase his nieces and nephews to give them a good whisker burn. He passed away on 9/26/1995.

Oswald died 3/20/1988 and Ottilia died 2/25/1994. They are buried side-by-side in Swift Current.



Left: Karl & Elizabeth Weinknecht, Hulda & Bill Firus, Ottilia & Oswald Hennig, Emelie & Berthold Busse on Ottilia & Oswald's 25th wedding anniversary (8/3/1956). Right: Oswald & Ottilia Hennig on their 50th wedding anniversary (8/8/1981).



Harry: "That is why I get mad sometimes at people here when they complain so much. They take stuff for granted. Guys like me we have seen it differently. I had a lot of anticipation about when the rest of the family was going to come. I think they did good. I know Mom and Dad up here, they had a good life, because they never had any financial problems. I always say I could have never done any of what I did here over in Europe. We really have, if you are honest, paradise. I can work around at home or if I want to go for coffee. I don't have to worry if I am going to spend a dollar, so it is paradise. With all of the complaining we are human, but if we are honest with ourselves, this is paradise. What else do we really need? If I want to go to town tomorrow, if I don't want to do nothing, then I can go to town or do nothing. If I want to work then I can work. Nobody is going to shoot me and nobody worries what I say if I say the Canadian Prime Minister is this or that, or a rock is this or that. The hardest thing to adjust to I can't really remember, but you just kind of take everything in stride. But I guess when they shipped us out to Germany from Poland was the worst."

Family Tree

Helene Ernest Weinknecht

grandmother

born: 5/3/1877

died: 12/1952

buried: Goldbeck, Germany

Pauline Kruger Hennig

grandmother

born: 1/16/1876

died: 1954?

buried: ?

Onelia Weinknecht Hennig

Mother

born: 11/3/1906

died: 2/25/94

buried: Christ Current, Clark

siblings: Anna

siblings: Thilda born 1904, died 2000

siblings: Emile born 1909, died 1980

siblings: Karl born 1912, died 2004

Oswald Hennig

Father

born: 2/3/1906

died: 3/20/1988

buried: Christ Current, Clark

siblings: Gunter

siblings: Kurt

siblings: Leopold

siblings: Sylvia

siblings: Oskar

Alf Hennig

grandfather

born: 1870?

died: 1948?

buried: ?

Harry Paul Hennig

Sibling

born: 11/25/1932

died:

buried:

Gertrud Hennig

Sibling

born: 12/9/1934

died: 9/26/1995

buried: Christ Current, Clark

Friedrich Hennig Hermann Fern

Sibling

born: 7/6/1938

died:

buried:

Herbert Hennig

Sibling

born: 12/11/1940

died:

buried:

Pauline Hennig

Sibling

born: 5/16/1943

died:

buried: