In 1921, basketball was a favorite sport on the campus, although “the small pox epidemic interfered with the carrying out of the scheduled list of games.” Debating teams and music groups had good student participation, and on March 23, the senior class and 80-member chorus presented an operetta, “Twilight Alley.” Two students that year were recipients of scholarships awarded by the Crookston Milling Company. Selection was based on “diligence and progress,” and Iver Johnson of Crookston received $75, while Clayton Stageberg of Floodwood received $50.

Pageants became a popular diversion in those years, beginning with “The Valley Spirit Speaks” in 1921. The first pageant was written by Superintendent Selvig in honor of visiting delegates for the Northern Minnesota Editors’ Association meeting held at the Northwest School. The pageant was popular, and was performed several times that spring. In 1923, the “Pageant of Prosperity” was presented for the 20th anniversary of the Red River Valley Dairymen’s Association. About 200 persons participated in that production, which featured music, dances, special costumes and scenery, all relating to Red River Valley history and agriculture.

On November 2, 1921, senior boys and faculty women cast the first votes for president, again issuing in a new era—one in which women were allowed to vote.

But in spite of pageants proclaiming prosperity, the years between 1920 and 1930 were not good ones for agriculture. Farm property value dropped, farm income dropped and many lost their farms. Equality for agriculture and farm relief were bitter topics. The farm situation spurred Selvig on to become interested in politics.

Selvig’s words from more than 50 years ago sound as if they were lifted from today’s newspapers. “The farmers’ purchasing power is much below what it was in 1914. His farm debt has increased and he is unable, under present conditions, to reduce it. He buys in an artificially created market and is compelled to sell nearly all his products on a world market. Either the protective system must be extended to the farmer or it must be modified. Transportation, taxation, credit problems, land tenure and honesty in labeling food products are other problems that cry for amendment and change in the interests of agriculture ... agricultural well-being is of fundamental importance to the cities, to the industrial East, if you please, as well as to us out here in the producing regions.”

The 1925 class yell went like this: “Hoop la ra, Hoop la ra, Bestest class you ever saw. You’ll admit that we’re alive, Senior Class of ’25.”

The Northwest School of Agriculture’s class of 53 years ago had 48 students, 24 men and 24 women. Total enrollment stood at 271, with 172 males and 99 females. The average age was 17.8 years. Students who came from farms totaled 247; town dwellers numbered 24.

The year 1925 marked the third decade since the Northwest Experiment Station had been established, and the 19th year of Northwest School history. Superintendent Selvig wrote, “During these 30 years the erstwhile ‘duck pond’ ... has been transformed into an efficient investigational center ...” Selvig added, “During these 19 years of the Northwest School, over 2000 young men and women have here received training and inspiration for their life’s work.”

Each student was required to present a thesis or demonstration before graduation. Such topics as “Windbreaks,” “Protection and Care of Wild Birds,” “Muffin Making,” and “How to Choose a Becoming Hat” were chosen. Over the years, the thesis had given way to demonstrations. “Usually students gain a great deal of value by giving this form of thesis because they learn to explain their theme while actually demonstrating with their hands,” yearbook writers noted.

By 1925, most women wore their hair bobbed and waved tightly. Dresses were shapeless and mid-calf length. Men’s hair was usually brushed severely back or parted in the center.

The 1925 Homecoming game gave the school a 34-0 victory over Morris. Other activities during the year included debate, music, clubs and societies, class plays and YMCA and YWCA events. The school had a livestock judging team, which placed second in the first inter-school stock judging contest held during the Red River Valley Winter Shows week. Winnipeg placed first.

The first annual summer alumni reunion was held in June. Over 300 persons who had attended the school were