present, “in spite of heavy rains during the day and the roads which were almost impassable.” All classes except the 1910 class were represented. Ernest Erickson of Chauwin, Alberta no doubt came the greatest distance, but many others drove long miles over muddy roads to attend.

School enrollment for fall term reached an all-time high of 228 in 1926. In the Northwest Monthly school publication it was stated, “All dormitory rooms were taken the first week of school with a number of students living in Crookston. The enrollment would have been still larger could students have found room at the school.”

In February, three special trains were needed to bring visitors to the Red River Valley Winter Shows. The Northwest School held their traditional Farmers’ Week and Women’s Meetings in conjunction with the Shows. Selvig reported that thousands attended. “All of them expressed the same thought that it was the greatest educational week in the history of the Valley,” he said.

That 1926 Winter Shows meeting had an attendance that could not be accommodated. According to Selvig’s memoirs, the largest crowd of Winter Shows participants ever showed up to greet Governor Frank O. Lowden of Illinois. Governor Lowden first spoke at the women’s meeting. For his next engagement, it was obvious the armory could not accommodate all the people, so a loudspeaker was connected to the auditorium of the Methodist church. Lowden first spoke to the 900 people assembled in the church and he then spoke to the persons at the armory. It was estimated over 5,000 persons failed to gain admittance to the armory. The Red River Valley farmers considered Lowden, himself a native Minnesotan, a friend. The governor spoke about the plight of farmers and stressed constructive solutions.

Other farm-oriented events happened that year. For several years, there were farm club visiting days at the campus. At least 50 clubs came each year to hear extension speakers. Women who attended the meetings suggested having an annual farm women’s camp at the school. By the time they arrived, the women said, it was time to go home again. They wanted to “come, stay in the dormitories, attend classes, have fun, listen to speakers and entertainers, have meals in the dining hall and talk.”

The women’s camp began in 1926 and was held each June, with as many as 200 attending. The camp, too, became a Valley institution.

After considering what Selvig called “the plight of the farmers,” he decided to run for Congress. He had two goals: to encourage farmers to organize, and to concentrate on farmers’ marketing problems. In November of 1926, C. G. Selvig was elected congressman for the Ninth Congressional District.

Austin A. Dowell succeeded Selvig as superintendent on April 15, 1927.

Dowell had graduated from Iowa State College. He taught in Iowa, and then was the head of the animal husbandry department at the University of Alberta in Canada. From there, he went on to the University of Minnesota, working with the Extension Division.

Reference was made to women and the vote in the 1927 yearbook. A poem coined by “A Suffragette” was written in honor of Selvig.

“Once I was a Democrat, And thought it lots of fun; But changed like a chameleon, When you set out to ‘run.’ And now you are a Congressman, And I a woman true; No matter what your policies, I’ll always be for YOU!”

Area residents gather for a meeting. Selvig is on the steps.