Time of hope (1946-1949)

This plaque was added to the War Memorial after World War II.

With a global war behind them, Northwest School faculty and students turned their minds to lighter pursuits. The fall of 1946 brought news of the Student Variety Night (Delores Hamre of Beltrami won first place for individual talent), and sports events filled the pages of the Northwest Monthly. Northwest swimmers won a dual meet against Morris and the basketball team won the Ag School Conference, finishing with a 1000 percent average. Merle Hennum of Donaldson won the Pillsbury State Wheat Award for the best sample of hard spring wheat at the Winter Shows. A new dormitory for girls was being built, and fall term registration of 413 filled all dormitories to capacity and also took all available rooms in the city.

The war was not forgotten quickly, though. For the alumni reunion scheduled for June 29, alumni president Clarence Sargent of Crookston suggested that alumni organize caravans to come for the first "peace-time" reunion in years.

The "duck pond" gives way to landscaping on the mall.

The 1947 Winter Shows speakers dealt with world issues. Topics included "What's Next in Asia," and "The Problem of Peace with Germany." For area veterans, an "on-the-job" farm training program was organized, with the Northwest School designated as the training center for veterans who didn't have access to local on-the-job farm training opportunities. A four-year course was outlined for the veterans, and 44 enrolled in the initial program.

Although sunflowers are now recognized as being an important crop in the Red River Valley, that crop was viewed with caution in 1947. Olaf Soine, agronomist, wrote an article titled "Sunflowers—A New Crop in the Red River Valley." He stated, "This crop has its place now during the critical shortage of edible oils, but the future will depend on the price of other competing crops and the return of the pre-war sources of oil." He continued, "Because there are no processing plants in this area, all the seed will have to be shipped out. This may be a factor in the future production because the seeds are rather bulky."

Soine was also the Station weather recorder, and in December he reported that snowfall had broken all previous records. From the first snowfall on November 11 through November 31, 30 inches of snow had fallen.

Plaque dedication, Armistice Day, 1949. Superintendent McCall is on the left.