The school yearbook, The Aggie, received a first class honor rating from the National Scholastic Press Association in 1950. Editors were John Johnson of Pelican Rapids and Janet Schaefer of Angus. Another student from Angus, Roger Kasprick, won the extemporaneous speaking contest in early 1951 and received a gold medal.

C.G. Selvig and Adolph Skyberg at the dedication of Selvig Hall, 1951.

On June 30, 1951 the 45th anniversary of the Northwest School was observed. On that day, Selvig Hall was officially dedicated by University Regent Herman F. Skyberg, graduate of the class of 1916.

O.M. Kiser retired in 1952. An instructor in animal husbandry, he received an award for serving 25 years or more. That same year, 170 women attended Women's Camp, and Mrs. Ella Anderson of Crookston received the “Silver Bowl” award for outstanding attendance. She had attended 25 of the 27 Women's Camps held.

An even 100 students graduated from the regular four-year course in March of 1953. Robert Hausmann of Hillsboro was valedictorian and his brother Darrel was salutatorian. That summer, over 300 students were enrolled for home project work. The student who enrolled as a freshman at the School was required to complete three summers of home project work before graduation.

Again, farmers were well-represented throughout the summer. More than 4,000 attended “Hay Field Day.”

Students at the Northwest School had several areas of involvement from which to choose. A school newspaper, the Rouser, was published six times each quarter, and the annual, The Aggie, was published by students each year. There were judging teams, chorus and band, a class play, homecoming activities and sports. Football, basketball, cross country, swimming and wrestling were offered for the boys.

The 1955 yearbook was dedicated to Mrs. Alice Baker and to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lysaker, who served as preceptors at the Stephens Hall dormitory. “We enjoy the boys in spite of their many tricks and pranks,” said the Lysakers. In that same yearbook, a headline announced, “We learn to live while acquiring knowledge—and skill.” The senior section began with, “As seniors we have learned to live; the world lies before us.”

Those statements summed up the philosophy of the Northwest School. Over the years, that philosophy had been proven, for many graduates moved forward in worthwhile careers and in personal achievement.

The 47th annual commencement at the Northwest School of Agriculture was held March 25, 1955, with 105 students receiving diplomas. Wendell Kelm of Neche, N.D. was valedictorian and Paul Tollefson of Crookston was salutatorian.

In September, the 50th school year opened, with about 400 students enrolled. A new staff member that fall was William Menzhuber, who was employed as an instructor in agricultural engineering. Menzhuber, now director of UMC’s plant services, was hired in 1955 as the “fourth man in the department” to teach carpentry, farm shop and mechanical drawing.

Janice Michaelson of Euclid was crowned Homecoming queen that fall, and the football team’s record was six wins and one loss.

At the January 1956 meeting of the University Board of Regents, B.E. Youngquist was appointed superintendent to succeed T. M. McCall, who would retire in June after 45 years with the Northwest School. Youngquist had been principal of the Southern School of Agriculture in Waseca and was a 1939 graduate of the University of Minnesota. The retiring superintendent presented diplomas to 102 graduates in March, and in June at the alumni reunion and commemoration of the founding of the Northwest School of Agriculture 50 years before, McCall was the special guest of honor. The Northwest School Alumni Association presented an organ to the school, dedicated to McCall and his wife.

“No man in the area has had greater effect on the agriculture of the Red River Valley than our own Northwest School of Agriculture and Agricultural Experiment Station Superintendent T.M. McCall,” commented T.H. Fenske, acting dean of the University of Minnesota’s Institute of Agriculture. “McCall’s name has literally become synonymous with agricultural progress in the Valley, and rightly so, because he has carved a special niche as a leader, advisor, and teacher since 1911. His 45 years of service to the area is a record of which we are all justly proud.”

McCall, born in 1887 in Iowa, was graduated from Iowa State College in 1910 and joined the Northwest staff in 1911. With the exception of one year when he left Crookston to earn his master’s degree at Iowa State College, McCall had been continuously associated with the school. He was appointed superintendent in 1937.