Always in close conjunction with the School were the Red River Valley Winter Shows functions. The 47th annual Winter Shows took place in 1957. The theme for one day during the meetings was "Use of Airplanes in Agriculture."

Another long-time faculty member, Retta Bede, retired in July of 1957, after 32 years of teaching home economics at the School. That same year, Mrs. Alice "Ma" Baker retired as counselor in Stephens Hall, where she had been employed for 12 years. "These boys came away better equipped for life after living in 'Ma' Baker's dormitory," Northwest writers declared. Retta Bede was honored during the alumni reunion in June.

Ebenhard S. Gandrud, president of the E.S. Gandrud Company, manufacturers of farm equipment in Owatonna, was honored by the University of Minnesota in 1957. A graduate of the Northwest School in 1926, "Gandy" became the operator of a farm equipment company titled, appropriately, the Gandy Company. Gandrud still owns the Gandy Company, and his equipment is distributed worldwide. He now has 65 patents and is well-known for such inventions as the Gandy granular chemical applicator.

The old Robertson Hall building was renovated in 1958, with the interior almost completely rebuilt. A new classroom building, now known as the Hill Building, was in the process of being constructed in 1958 and 1959.

In 1959, there were 89 graduates at the March commencement, and that summer, during the alumni reunion, the women's dormitory was renamed McCall Hall in honor of the retired superintendent. The new Hill classroom building was dedicated that fall at Parents' Day ceremonies.

As the 60's dawned, many changes were occurring at the Northwest School of Agriculture. Class size was leveling off and transportation had become easier. A new decade offered promises of the Space Age, Camelot, and exciting innovations. In December of 1959, Louis J. Quijada of Venezuela came to study at the School under a foreign exchange program. This was a first for the School, and it pointed the way to what was to come—a greater realization of the world beyond the Red River Valley.