In 1918, the flu epidemic raged. The fall term was cut short, and on December 16 it is mentioned that all senior girls were sick with flu except Olga Spjut, who went to classes alone.

A class history written by Verna Imsdahl includes the items, “In the fall of 1918 there was a remarkable change noticeable in the seniors who arrived. Although their number had been reduced to 24, they lived up to the old adage, ‘Quality not Quantity.’ They were handicapped at the beginning of the term because of the irregularity due to an over-supply of the well-known enemies, the flu germs, and also the absence of the class advisors who had joined the field of war work and did not return until after Christmas.”

A high point of the year was the legislative appropriation of $10,000 for a concrete road between the campus and the city of Crookston. Pictures of roads from that period testify to the deep ruts that made travel nearly impossible.

R.W. Thatcher, dean of the department of agriculture, congratulated Northwest students. “To be able to go ahead steadily toward a desired goal, even with such distractions as epidemics of disease and changes from war-time to peace-time condition, is an achievement which promises well for your future success as individuals and as a school.”

Other words from his letter to the class of 1919 sound familiar and modern. “Now, as never before, the importance of a prosperous, contented rural population as a national asset is generally recognized.”

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**Plans and problems (1920-1930)**

The world began to settle down to normal living again, but the war was not soon forgotten. A Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Memorial was proposed, and $2,200 was raised by alumni, faculty and friends to erect the granite monument. In the yearbook of 1920, the statement is made, “It is hoped that the road now leading into the campus from the bridge may be removed and two parallel roads be built in its place.” The monument would be erected between the roads.

Literally thousands attended the Dedication Day on October 5, 1920, when several special events took place. First, a new $100,000 dining hall was dedicated; the Memorial was unveiled; and the date signaled the opening of a paved road from Crookston to the campus.

The War Memorial at the campus entrance.

The memorial had an honor roll with 163 named on a large bronze plaque. Included were the seven Northwest alumni who had lost their lives during the war—Herman Ecklund, Gilbert Kittelson, Arthur Layton, Edward Rud, Theodore Stalemo, Martin H. Dale and Clarence Brustad. The memorial was unveiled by Ole A. Flaat ('16), president of the Alumni Association.

A regular transportation problem, 1923.

Superintendent Selvig was delighted with the paved road, which was the first hard-surfaced road in the Ninth Congressional District. According to Selvig, much prodding had been done to get a paved road between the city and the campus, but little headway had been made. Then Regent M.M. Williams of Little Falls visited after a heavy April rain. Wrote Selvig, “When we emerged from the city’s paved streets and entered the gumbo highway to the school, Mr. Williams thought we should return. The car swerved from one side of the road to the other. It was necessary to avoid the pot-holes. It frequently happened that cars landed in the ditch and had to be hauled out.”

After the unnerving ride, Williams vowed to work for legislative funding. He did; eventually, the legislature voted $10,000 for the University’s share in improving the road.

During the early ’20’s, students chose a variety of topics for their special projects and presentations, including Future of the Draft Horse, Why You Should Choose the Guernsey Cow, Control of Sow Thistle in the Red River Valley, and Recreation on the Farm.