Foreword

The history of the Northwest Experiment Station and the Northwest School of Agriculture is a fascinating one. In essence, the agricultural history of the Red River Valley walks hand in hand with the history of the station and school. Old annuals, publications and news articles bring fresh insight to events that have long been part of the Valley way of life.

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Finally, special thanks to Herschel Lysaker, who has been associated with the Northwest School and with the college since 1944. His help is much appreciated, especially in providing background information about many events that took place. Out of 130 graduates who attended an alumni reunion, Herschel Lysaker could recall 129 by name. Such knowledge of students and of student life has been a tremendous benefit during this book’s preparation.

R.A.S.
June 1978
TORGER A. HOVERSTAD, the first Northwest Experiment Station superintendent, served from 1895 to 1905. Hoverstad was instrumental in the preliminary organization of the Northwest Experiment Station, and during his years with the station he introduced better selections of several crop varieties, including File and Blue Stem wheats, Minnesota #13 corn, alfalfa, White Blossom Sweet Clover, Brome Grass, and Red and Mammoth clovers. He helped organize the Red River Valley Dairymen's Association, and became its first president in 1903. Hoverstad planted the main windbreak at the Station in 1896-97, and he directed much effort toward drainage of the land. Polk County and the city of Crookston each gave $1,000 to help construct an open drainage ditch that was used until 1909, when the tile and surface drainage system was completed.

WILLIAM ROBERTSON succeeded Hoverstad as station superintendent and was the first school superintendent. Robertson was with the station-school from 1905 until his death in January 1910. He established the curriculum of academic and vocational training for the new school. He secured staff and faculty to implement the school programs. Robertson's greatest contribution was considered to be the installation of a surface drainage system augmented by an elaborate system of tile lines.

CONRAD SELVIG was appointed by the University Board of Regents to succeed Robertson, and he served as school-station superintendent from 1910 through 1927. Selvig worked toward building the school, with developmental plans to allow for future needs. He organized the Red River Valley Winter Shows in 1910 and served as president through 1927. His leadership in drainage matters led to the organization of the Red Lake and Clearwater River Conservancy project. The experiment station continued to test and introduce new and better varieties, including the introduction of Grimm alfalfa to the Valley. Livestock research continued to grow under Selvig's leadership. He was elected to Congress from the Ninth District in 1926 and served three terms.
A. A. DOWELL was appointed superintendent in 1927 and stayed until 1937, when he joined the department of agricultural economics at the University in St. Paul. Under Dowell's leadership, livestock flocks and herds in the Red River Valley were improved, and he served as president of the Red River Valley Development Association, the Red River Valley Dairymen's Association, and the Red River Valley Livestock Association. Although he was school superintendent during the years of the Depression, school enrollment continued to climb. In spite of financial problems at the school during that period, Dowell insisted on high quality teaching, and he was rewarded by growing enrollment.

T. M. McCALL worked at the Northwest School as a horticulturist since 1911 and was experiment station field manager from 1919 to 1926. He succeeded Austin Dowell as superintendent in 1937 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1956. Under McCall's leadership, the campus landscaping took place. During his years as superintendent, enrollment grew to over 400 students annually, and the reputation of the school and experiment station continued to grow in stature.

B. E. YOUNGQUIST has been Experiment Station superintendent since 1956. Youngquist continues to provide leadership for the Red River Valley Winter Shows Board of Managers, and he was instrumental in gaining favorable approval for the phasing out of the high school-level school and for the beginning of a technical-collegiate school.
Crookston had been on the Minnesota map for just a few years (it was incorporated in 1879) before plans were under way to locate an experiment station in the area.

A substantial portion of the credit goes to Willet M. Hays of the Minnesota Experiment Station at St. Anthony Park. Hays was professor of agriculture and agriculturist at the experiment station of North Dakota Agricultural College, Fargo, in 1892 and 1893. He traveled widely on both sides of the Red River Valley. He was impressed with the idea of “spreading the University” to different parts of the state. When Hays joined the Minnesota Experiment Station, he received a general consent from the Agricultural Committee of the Board of Regents to make a survey of Minnesota to consider the development of regional stations and schools.

Several tracts of land were considered for the Northwest Experiment Station location. It was finally located by the Board of Regents at Crookston on land donated by the Great Northern Railway under the auspices of President James J. Hill and Samuel Hill. Hill offered the land to Willet Hays before the Board of Regents had formally considered the project. When Hays protested, Hill said to him, “Young man, you go ahead.”

The land donated near Crookston consisted of 476.61 acres. It was unimproved land, and it posed a considerable drainage problem. The land selected was extremely low, but it was regarded as advantageous to have such a tract of land for experimental purposes and for investigational use.

Work at the farm began in 1895. The city of Crookston and Polk County each gave $1,000 which was utilized for drainage work and for making roads around and through the Northwest Farm. Hays was given general charge of the equipment and plans, and T.A. Hoverstad was selected to be superintendent of the station.

As a portent of things to come, the first implements that were unloaded, along with horses and other farm materials, were soon soaked with rain. The man in charge of getting the first supplies to the station slept in an old barn during the night. When he woke in the morning, after a night of rain, he looked out and saw only one or two spots of the farm above water. Crookston residents referred to the land as the “duck pond,” often mentioning the fact that the area was a perfect place to “bag” ducks.

Conditions weren’t favorable. The spring of 1896 was extremely wet. Rainfall was so constant and excessive that it was difficult to plant crops in time for a growing season. In 1897, floods just before harvest nearly ruined the wheat and oats. A fire caused by lightning that year destroyed the barn, several horses and several farm tools and conveyances. In 1899, planting was delayed until late May and early June, and a hail storm came just before harvest. Unseasonably wet years followed until 1905. The main consideration was to secure a suitable drainage system.

The state legislature appropriated $5,000 in 1903 for drainage. The ditching that followed removed some of the surface water problems, but the ditches weren’t of sufficient capacity to remove water quickly after heavy rains or during spring thaws. In 1905, an additional appropriation of $4,000 was made to be used for more drainage and for experimenting with tile drainage. The seasons of 1906, 1907 and 1908 were given up entirely to ditching and laying tile. The ditch was completed by 1909, and consisted of about 50,000 feet of tile plus a one and one-half mile open ditch.

With the drainage problem under control, more research and experimentation could be done in other vital areas of agriculture, dealing with crops, livestock and horticultural work.
The School begins (1905-1911)

It was generally believed that once the Northwest Experiment Station was established and successfully conducted for a period of time, an agricultural school would follow as a natural sequence. Professor Willet Hays continued to agitate for such a school, as did William Robertson, a member of the faculty at the Central School, St. Paul.

When A.D. Stephens was elected State Senator from the Crookston area, more impetus was added to the campaign for a “regional” school at Crookston.

In 1905, the Minnesota legislature appropriated $15,000 to open the school and to build a school building. Like the St. Anthony Park school, Crookston’s school would be part of the University of Minnesota system, and would provide training in the technical and practical business of agriculture and give instruction in the arts of homemaking.

Three main reasons were given for beginning the school at Crookston. First, the parent school at St. Anthony Park was operating at near capacity; second, the students in northwest Minnesota found the distance to St. Anthony Park too far to attend; third, soil and climatic conditions in the Red River Valley were considered radically different from those in the remainder of the state. Teaching efforts geared to Valley conditions were considered advantageous.

The first school building had three floors. The first story was devoted to the dining hall, cooks’ quarters and heating plant. The second floor was for classrooms, and the third floor had nine dormitory rooms and a bathroom. The girls’ dormitory was located at the farmhouse.

It was necessary to borrow $2,500 from Crookston citizens to meet salaries and expenses during the first year of the school’s operation in 1906.

William Robertson became the second superintendent in 1905, and was the first school superintendent. There were 31 students enrolled in the first class.

The Northwest School of Agriculture offered a three-year course, beginning in October and closing in March each year. Expenses totaled $15 per month for room, board, heat, lights and laundry. There was also a $5 entrance fee, a $5 deposit refunded at the close of the term, and $1 each for textbook rental and reserve fund.

During the second year, 41 students registered. That year, the legislature voted funds for a boys’ dormitory (Stephens Hall) and for a science building (Owen Hall).

Superintendent Robertson died unexpectedly in 1910. His successor was Conrad G. Selvig, a young man who had been superintendent at Glencoe. Selvig came to a fledgling school with many ideas to implement. One of his major tasks was to secure able faculty members. He, also, was plagued with several problems dealing with the physical implementation of campus buildings and needs. The wells that supplied water to the campus did not meet the needs.

Eventually funds were appropriated to install a water main from the campus to connect with Crookston’s water supply. It was important to design a “campus plan” so future building would come about in a logical fashion. Station buildings had to be moved to allow for future expansion of the school campus. Often funds appropriated fell short of the amount needed to complete a specified project. According to Selvig, “The first three years were not easy ones.”

However, year by year, the school and experiment station began to look more like an established institution. Trees were planted. Buildings were added and landscaping was done. Drainage eased the swampy conditions, and research was under way at the Experiment Station in many areas.

In December 1910, the Northwest School of Agriculture held its first annual short course, the forerunner of the annual Farmers’ Week and Women’s Meetings, and the Red River Valley Winter Shows. Selvig had found short courses were well attended when he was in Glencoe, and he felt the idea had merit. The short course was to feature a farm crops exhibit. The short course and show were the first events held in the newly constructed building (Kiehle), which was completed only days before the event.

By 1911, there was a yearbook. The class of 1911 was comprised of seven males and nine females. The class motto was, “Prepared, Yet Just Begun.”

Several student writing selections were included in the paper-backed annual. Olga C. Lindfors, writing on “Essentials of Domestic Art and Science,” gave a thorough list of the areas taught in cooking, sewing and home management. She closed with the thought, “We have the care of many, dependent on our ability to use, and make practical, what we have learned at the Crookston School of Agriculture. Is not our work as important as that of the professional man? Ought we not put as much zeal and thought and study into it?”

First football team at the Northwest School of Agriculture, 1908.
Harry Hedin, another 1911 graduate, wrote an historical sketch of the experiment station and traced the development of the school. In discussing the experiment station land near the campus, he wrote, "The land is made up of black clay loam, very hard to work. It is low, making it necessary to install a drainage system before the land could be used. There is on the farm two miles of open ditch and nine miles of tile drainage. By means of this combination the soil has been changed so fair crops can now be grown." Hedin's words illustrate the fact that even then the Northwest Experiment Station was involved in improving the agricultural methods in the Valley, paving the way for the rich agricultural future to come.

"I predict a bright future of great usefulness for the school and station."

Dean Albert F. Woods, Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, wrote, "This type of school fills a place in our educational system not possible for any other type of school to effectively occupy. It is a school where agriculture as a business and profession is made the dominant note. It trains for the farm and country home, and the improvement of rural conditions."

Woods concluded, "I predict a bright future of great usefulness for the school and the station."

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**Years of growth (1911-1917)**

The Northwest School's early days could be considered "years of growth." More staff were added, more buildings were constructed, programs were added, enrollment increased. The first graduating class was in 1909, but by 1911, an alumni association was organized. The object was to "bind more closely the graduates who have been closely associated during the school course... and to make known to the public the splendid advantages offered by the Northwest School of Agriculture, especially to the young men and women of Northwestern Minnesota."

By 1913, there were six school buildings. Stephens Hall and Robertson Hall were dormitories; the Sidney M. Owen building was for farm engineering and dairy classes; the first classroom building, the Home Economics building, was for "domestic science." There was the James J. Hill Building for classes and the new administration building, named in honor of David L. Kiehle, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Regent and University professor. Four buildings were formally dedicated on December 5, 1912—Owen, Kiehle, Robertson and Hill. James J. Hill was present for the dedication and attended a "farm style" dinner afterward.

Hill wrote in the 1913 annual, "Every institution engaged in giving instruction in modern farm methods is not only contributing to the advancement of an industry which must always be the foundation of national prosperity and stability, but it is a guidepost pointing the way to what must and will be, for a majority of the young people of our country, the happiest and, if rightly followed, the most successful occupation."

At the dedication ceremonies, Hill told Superintendent Selvig, "Come to see me at my office, and I'll give this school a building or provide a fund for some unmet need." Selvig thanked him and noted he had a long memory. Said Hill, "That's all right young man; remember it." Selvig did, but shortly after their meeting, the railroad magnate died. Wrote the young superintendent, "He left a legacy for Northwestern Minnesota even if fate intervened in regard to that promised building."
Summer practicums were established procedures by 1912. The theory was, students would attend school for six months and pursue a "practicum," or as it was later known, a "home project," at home or on the farm for the other six months of the year.

Following the advice of University President George E. Vincent, that there be "no blind alleys in our schools," the Northwest School offered a fourth-year advanced course, which focused totally on academic studies.

A central heating plant was constructed in 1913, and by 1914 construction was begun on a second boys' dormitory. In addition to Superintendent Selvig, there were 15 faculty members employed at the school by 1914. Selvig noted, "I sought the best teachers and Station staff members procurable. Most of them were young, but they were well prepared. They grew in stature with the years. To them is due full credit. During the early years salaries were low."

School activities continued to expand. Music, public speaking, debating, Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Activities, athletics and other activities were added. For six months, the school was "home" to the young students, and attempts were made to provide enjoyable and broadening experiences for them.

An early scene at the experiment station.

The experiment station made its influence known in the area. An annual visiting day at the station became popular with farmers and their families. Research was done concerning black stem rust of wheat, alfalfa growing and livestock production. According to Selvig, the 1860 census reported 1,932 head of cattle in Valley counties. By 1910, the number stood at 337,587. Selvig was awed by the Valley soil and the agricultural potential. "What a heritage," he pronounced. "Do you know the potent powers of this soil and the wonders it can perform?"

The Farmers' Week events continued to gain support, but it was decided that attendance would be facilitated by moving the programs to the city. Winter weather was unpredictable, and it was necessary to go from the campus to Crookston in horse-drawn conveyances. Crookston's Grand Opera House was secured for the meetings, but soon crowds strained that building's capacity. Moves began to acquire a building that could accommodate the "Red River Valley Farm Crops Show," as it came to be called.

The Red River Valley Livestock Association was organized and incorporated. Shares were sold for $10 to obtain funds for constructing a building for $15,000. The building was to house farm crops exhibits and to have a livestock judging room, as well as provide quarters for livestock in the basement area. The first building was ready for the 1919 show. In 1920, Annex A was added, and Annex B was ready for the 1921 shows. According to Selvig, there were more than 2,600 stockholders of the Red River Valley Livestock Association.

So, on all fronts, growth took place. The 1916-17 school year showed an enrollment of 160 students in the regular three-year program. Added to that were 47 enrollees for the junior shortcourse, 145 for the summer training for rural teachers, and 1,824 for the farmers' short course. In one year, more than 2,000 persons had—in one way or another—been served by the Northwest School of Agriculture.

An early-day poultry class.

An early view of Kiehle Building.
The first war years (1917-1919)

On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson appeared before Congress to discuss the impending war with Germany. "God helping her, she (our country) can do no other," he said.

By 1918, the "war to end all wars" was beginning to be felt even in rural Minnesota, and the yearbooks of 1918 and 1919 paint a picture of the feelings and events during those days of the first global conflict.

In his March 18 letter to the class of 1918, Northwest School Superintendent, C. G. Selvig, quotes Corporal Herbert V. Anderson, a 1917 Northwest School graduate. Anderson wrote, "I hope the graduates will realize the responsibility that is placed on them to apply the knowledge they have learned at school. They are, to a certain extent, responsible for our keeping. It would be quite impossible for us to be here (at the front, in France) if the farmers of America didn't produce enough food. If the graduates apply what they have learned, then we will be able to do the rest which will bring peace and honor to all mankind."

An entire section focuses on World War I in the 1918 edition of the Red River Aggie. Forty-eight names were listed under "Northwest School's Boys in Uncle Sam's Service."

Military drill was part of early regimen.

Two drill companies were formed on campus, and Patriot Day was observed on December 19, 1917. The dominant theme was "save, serve and sacrifice."

A flag service dedication took place at the school in February of 1918, and was called "the most concrete demonstration of the Institution's genuine loyalty."

During the week of February 11, students presented the Northwest Farmers' Week. With the Farm Crops Show and Livestock Exhibit (forerunner to the Winter Shows), plus the Farmers' Week, the rapid development of agriculture in the Red River Valley was given a boost by providing information just for farmers. Patriotism was stressed throughout the sessions. "Farm, home and community problems were discussed only in their relation to service to our country and our allies," yearbook writers noted.

But not all of the 1917-18 year was spent contemplating a war in far-off Europe. Students viewed Mary Pickford in "The Little Princess," and basketball games were played regularly.

By 1917, there was a teachers' training course, which gave practical experience in teaching and directing household art and domestic science work in modern rural and consolidated schools. The course had begun in 1913, allowing qualified students to continue training at the Northwest School to prepare for college. Eleven persons were enrolled in that advanced course and in others offered for post-graduates.

Twenty-two seniors graduated in 1918. The freshman class was the largest yet—comprised of 118 members.

By the time the 1919 yearbook went to press, the sobering fact of war had made an impression. That year, the annual was dedicated to Northwest alumni who had "answered the call of duty and gave their lives that America might live." The service flag now had 135 stars representing graduates of the Northwest School who served during the war. Most stars were blue; seven were gold. Five graduates had died in France, and two in Army camps died from the pneumonia epidemic that ravaged the nation in 1918.

Superintendent Selvig wrote a letter to the "Boys of the Honor Roll." Despite the verbal extravagance of the time, his letter apparently came from the heart. "You felt America meant something to you and to the millions you represented and you were willing to offer any sacrifice to make this meaning true. What a proud record you and your comrades have emblazoned for the land that gave you birth. When the news of the Allies' successful advances came in the fall of 1918 we at home knew that some of you were in the line of battle with the flag floating proudly before you. We knew, too, that you would not come back till it was over 'over there'."

Servicemen's letters were reprinted on two pages. Some wrote detailed facts of life on the battlefield, some painted gruesome pictures of the casualties, some merely said they were lonely. A letter from Germany on December 28 traced one soldier's past few months, beginning with going into the trenches from March until May. He finished, "Some of the hottest fighting of the war was done between November 1-11. We went over the top about two hours before the Armistice was signed."

Girls' basketball team, 1916.
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.”

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.

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.
In 1921, basketball was a favorite sport on the campus, although "the small pox epidemic interfered with the carrying out of the scheduled list of games." Debating teams and music groups had good student participation, and on March 23, the senior class and 80-member chorus presented an operetta, "Twilight Alley." Two students that year were recipients of scholarships awarded by the Crookston Milling Company. Selection was based on "diligence and progress," and Iver Johnson of Crookston received $75, while Clayton Stageberg of Floodwood received $50.

Pageants became a popular diversion in those years, beginning with "The Valley Spirit Speaks" in 1921. The first pageant was written by Superintendent Selvig in honor of visiting delegates for the Northern Minnesota Editors' Association meeting held at the Northwest School. The pageant was popular, and was performed several times that spring. In 1923, the "Pageant of Prosperity" was presented for the 20th anniversary of the Red River Valley Dairymen's Association. About 200 persons participated in that production, which featured music, dances, special costumes and scenery, all relating to Red River Valley history and agriculture.

On November 2, 1921, senior boys and faculty women cast the first votes for president, again issuing in a new era—one in which women were allowed to vote.

But in spite of pageants proclaiming prosperity, the years between 1920 and 1930 were not good ones for agriculture. Farm property value dropped, farm income dropped and many lost their farms. Equality for agriculture and farm relief were bitter topics. The farm situation spurred Selvig on to become interested in politics.

Selvig's words from more than 50 years ago sound as if they were lifted from today's newspapers. "The farmers' purchasing power is much below what it was in 1914. His farm debt has increased and he is unable, under present conditions, to reduce it. He buys in an artificially created market and is compelled to sell nearly all his products on a world market. Either the protective system must be extended to the farmer or it must be modified. Transportation, taxation, credit problems, land tenure and honesty in labeling food products are other problems that cry for amendment and change in the interests of agriculture... agricultural well-being is of fundamental importance to the cities, to the industrial East, if you please, as well as to us out here in the producing regions."

The 1925 class yell went like this: "Hoop la ra, Hoop la ra, Bestest class you ever saw. You'll admit that we're alive, Senior Class of '25."

The Northwest School of Agriculture's class of 53 years ago had 48 students, 24 men and 24 women. Total enrollment stood at 271, with 172 males and 99 females. The average age was 17.8 years. Students who came from farms totaled 247; town dwellers numbered 24.

The year 1925 marked the third decade since the Northwest Experiment Station had been established, and the 19th year of Northwest School history. Superintendent Selvig wrote, "During these 30 years the erstwhile 'duck pond'... has been transformed into an efficient investigational center..." Selvig added, "During these 19 years of the Northwest School, over 2000 young men and women have here received training and inspiration for their life's work."

Each student was required to present a thesis or demonstration before graduation. Such topics as "Windbreaks," "Protection and Care of Wild Birds," "Muffin Making," and "How to Choose a Becoming Hat" were chosen. Over the years, the thesis had given way to demonstrations. "Usually students gain a great deal of value by giving this form of thesis because they learn to explain their theme while actually demonstrating with their hands," yearbook writers noted.

By 1925, most women wore their hair bobbed and waved tightly. Dresses were shapeless and mid-calf length. Men's hair was usually brushed severely back or parted in the center.

The 1925 Homecoming game gave the school a 34-0 victory over Morris. Other activities during the year included debate, music, clubs and societies, class plays and YMCA and YWCA events. The school had a livestock judging team, which placed second in the first inter-school stock judging contest held during the Red River Valley Winter Shows week. Winnipeg placed first.

The first annual summer alumni reunion was held in June. Over 300 persons who had attended the school were
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!"
The Depression years (1930-1936)

The Dirty Thirties, the Depression—by whatever name it went, the early years of the 1930's created a tightening of belts that is still vividly remembered by persons who lived during that period. Even the productive Red River Valley felt the sting of drought, harsh winters, lack of windbreaks and decrease in earning and buying power.

In 1932 the school paper, The Northwest Monthly, reported “The rainfall at the Northwest Station during the first four months of the 1932 growing season has been the lightest since 1920.” The season was also one of the warmest on record.

History was made at the Northwest School in 1932 when the first of the second generation of students enrolled at the college. Dayton Hanson of Fertile was the first of many sons and daughters of alumni to attend. He was the son of Henry Hanson, who had attended from 1908 to 1910.

In December it was announced that school expenses would be reduced to allow a greater number of students to attend. “Though financial conditions throughout our rural communities have made it exceedingly difficult for many parents to send their sons and daughters to school, these very conditions make it all the more necessary for the young people of this territory to secure the kind of an education that will not only enable them to master the problems of the farm and the home, but acquaint themselves with the national and international problems that must be solved.”

Rainfall didn’t improve in 1933, and in September emergency repair work on the Kiehle Building was required. Due to the five-year dry period, the ground had been constantly shrinking. The footings of the building settled, causing extensive damage to exterior and interior walls. Special funds were made available by the Board of Regents for new footings and replacement of bricks on the southwest corner wall and entrance halls.

Enrollment continued to increase, and the Northwest School was dubbed the “School of Service,” equipping students for careers in agriculture, home economics, home nursing and business training related to agriculture.

Superintendent A.A. Dowell was given leave of absence in the fall of 1933 to initiate special research work in livestock marketing for the government in Washington. T.M. McCall, who had been with the school since 1911, was named acting superintendent. In 1934, Dowell co-authored the book, “The American Farmer and the Export Market.”

A “windbreak campaign” began in 1934. “The drought of recent years, insect pests and heavy fuel demands has so decimated prairie windbreaks that immediate action in tree planting is necessary to secure the necessary protection of farmsteads.” Northwest Monthly authors stated. Each farmer was encouraged to plant from 150 to 200 trees on each quarter section. In 1935, the entire student body signed pledges to plant at least one white elm on home grounds, designating the elms as Northwest School trees.

The silver anniversary celebration of the Northwest School Farmers’ Week was observed in early 1935. An historical pageant was presented during the Winter Shows, and from the interest it generated, it was decided to form a valley-wide historical society.

Students planted trees on campus and at home. The Memorial Tree Planting Project was inaugurated in 1935. Superintendent and Mrs. Dowell are on the left.

Students returning to school in the fall of 1935 found sound picture equipment had been installed, so talking pictures could be viewed. Students were eligible for state aid that fall, too. Any student under 21 years who had finished the eighth grade and who lived in a rural school district that didn’t maintain an accredited high school could attend the Northwest School with all fees paid. A new attendance record was established.

Close upon the heels of the silver anniversary came the celebration of the Northwest Experiment Station’s 40th anniversary, observed on June 15, 1935. Persons present included T.A. Hoverstad, first station superintendent from 1895 to 1905; C.G. Selvig, superintendent from 1910 to 1927; W.C. Coffey, dean and director of the University Department of Agriculture; and A.D. Stephens, former state senator.

Several factors accounted for the upsurge in enrollment (an increase of 10 percent in one year). One was no doubt the state aid. Another reason cited was, “The improvement in the economic situation on the farms of the country has made it possible for parents to give their sons and daughters the kind of training that will fit them for lives of usefulness on the farms and in the homes of this territory. During the darkest hour of the Depression, the farm people of the Red River Valley never lost their faith in the farm as a home and a place to raise sturdy, resourceful future citizens.”
Although in 1935 "the darkest hours of the Depression" seemed to be over, the end was not quite in sight. Weather didn't improve in 1936. The first seven months of 1936 had already broken all records at Crookston for heat, cold and drought.

A cold record was set at 51 below zero. January was the coldest January on record, and February was the coldest of all months recorded. For 45 consecutive days, the thermometer remained below zero. Snowfall was nearly twice the average, but little moisture was available from it. Heat also set records in 1936, with July being the hottest month on record. Temperatures of 100 or more were recorded for 10 days, and zoomed to 90 or above for 21 days. July was the driest ever recorded. Total precipitation since January 1 was 6.83 inches, about half the average rainfall through June.

Northwest School's attendance record was broken in 1936 with 384 students enrolling. "With normal dormitory accommodation for 250 students and a present enrollment of nearly 400, it is evident that future growth of the school will depend largely upon whether or not adequate dormitory and classroom facilities are made available."

Spring thaws brought campus flooding. This was a familiar scene in 1934.

Depression or not, changes were coming. Rural electrification was becoming a reality. It was estimated that over 1,600 of the 2,400 farms in Meeker County would be supplied with electricity before 1937. Red River Valley farmers were reported to be "keenly interested" in the developments.

One Northwest student who became especially well-known during this period was Edwin Widseth of McIntosh. Widseth attended the Northwest School from 1929 through 1933. He lettered in football each of the four years, and was commended for his scholarship and school activities. He went on to play for the U of M Gophers in 1933. In 1934-35 and 1935-36 Minnesota won the Big Ten and National championships. In 1936, Widseth was named co-captain of the Gopher team, the team was declared national champion, and Widseth was honored in numerous ways. He was voted the most valuable man on the team, and ranked sixth in sports writers' and broadcasters' votes for the most outstanding player in the nation. He played 410 out of 480 minutes during the season, leading the Gophers in playing time. He was named All-American Tackle by 11 national outlets, including the New York Sun, United Press and the Associated Press. He was named All-Conference Tackle by United Press and the Big Ten coaches. Widseth later played tackle on the New York Giants team.

Station-School Superintendent Dowell resigned in April 1937 to accept a position at the University Farm in St. Paul. During the 10 years Dowell was in charge, student enrollment increased one-third, and over 57 percent of the school's graduates, through 1937, completed their course work during that period. T.M. McCall, horticulturist at the school for 25 years, succeeded Dowell as superintendent.

Home project work was important at the Northwest School. Each student selected a project to work on during summer vacation. Five credit hours of project work had to be completed before graduation. There were numerous projects from which to choose, including windbreak planting, rock or insect collections, seed plot projects and livestock production. Female students could choose from such subjects as canning, dressmaking and room furnishings.

Agatha Olson was crowned Red River Valley queen at the Red River Valley Historical Pageant. Her attendants were (l to r) Laura Hanson, Olive Steen, Evelyn Vilven, Lois Sargent, Esther Haugo, Helen Carlson, Irene Holst and Joyce Stamnes, all Northwest students.
Although the graduates have become scattered throughout the nation, many make it a point to stop by and visit the campus when they're visiting in the Crookston area.

The end of the Depression was on the horizon by 1937 with rainfall being nearly normal. In November 1937, 700 parents visited for Parents' Day, and 36 former students and graduates had 37 sons or daughters attending school. Lowell Lindberg of Warren had the distinction of having parents who were graduates from the same class (William Lindberg and Helga Lindfors, '12).

Toward stability (1937-1941)

As the Depression waned, the school again strived for normalcy. Fewer references were made about the farm situation; more was written about the day-to-day events taking place at the school.

James Lenes of Fosston was named the 1938-39 basketball team captain. Five students were named recipients of Sears-Roebuck scholarships. Owen Hall underwent repairs as a WPA project, for a total cost of $50,619.

Participants at the 1941 annual women's camp did woodcraft projects.

In the summer of 1938, 114 women attended the women's camp on campus. Topics included meat cutting, interior decorating, hotdish ideas and quilting. There were daily handicraft demonstrations, and a well-received lecture was given on "Why Stop Learning?"

That fall, the Northwest School football team won the Minnesota Ag School conference, with two wins, two defeats and two ties. A hockey program was organized that winter.

March of 1939 saw the largest graduating class in the history of the Northwest School, with 115 graduating from the regular class and 62 from the advanced class. That summer, there were 253 students enrolled in summer project work. The most popular project was one dealing with pure seed. Forty-five enrolled in the pure seed project, and a second popular project was dealing with potato raising. Many other project areas were represented, however, including tree planting, farmstead beautification, beekeeping, hogging off corn, horse labor record and plant identification. Girls often chose projects dealing with cookery, sewing and clothing, thrift and handicraft.

First station superintendent Hoverstad visited the campus that summer. He commented about his early association with the Northwest Station. "On July 1, 1895 the land now used for experiments and campus was wild, undeveloped land. It was used for pasture for the city herd except a small field planted in small grains near the northwest corner... The most important progress is invisible. The farmers had severe problems. The experiment station tried to solve these problems. The measure of success is the happy solution made to the farmers' problems... The state will always be indebted to Senator A.D. Stephens for his intelligent labors in securing the first appropriation. A less able man could not have secured it, and now the Northwest School of Agriculture is the largest in the state and gives promise of still greater progress and growth... During the past 40 years I have traveled extensively in almost all states in the Union... I do not hesitate to say that the experimental work and the educational work is of the highest order. and I predict continued success."

That fall, more than 700 parents attended the annual Parents' Day, and again many of the parents were themselves alumni of the Northwest School of Agriculture.
By 1940, the shadow of impending war again was being felt. A Winter Shows speaker was John Metcalfe, the leading investigator for the Dies Committee on Nazi, Fascist and Communist problems in the U.S.

Summer brought lighter moments. The Robertson Hall parlor was the scene of the first campus wedding, when Dorothy Foker married William Montague of Crookston. Miss Foker's father was A.M. Foker, an instructor in engineering, and she had lived on Northwest School grounds since childhood.

The Northwest Station celebrated its 45th anniversary in June, coupled with an alumni reunion. Pioneer farmers and businessmen, instrumental in the founding of the experiment station in 1895, were given special recognition. The first station superintendent, T.A. Hoverstad of St. Paul, was on hand to take part.

For a short time, life moved smoothly, with grain threshing clinics, homecoming, a student Christmas play and sports events.

The theme of the 1941 Winter Shows events, however, was "World Affairs." Topics included "What Happened in Norway—The Nazi Threat" and "Will the South American Republics Go Nazi or Go With the United States?"

Another war (1941-1945)

In the fall of 1941, 362 students registered at the Northwest School. In addition to the freshmen, juniors and seniors, there were 67 students in the advanced class. The Crookston Aggies were conference champs in football, and were co-champions with Morris for basketball. In November of 1941 the first "Faculty Variety Night" was held, patterned after the traditional Student Variety Night. All students reportedly enjoyed the event immensely.

Then in December Pearl Harbor was attacked, and the threat of the U. S. again being involved in war became a reality. In the foreword to the 1942 annual, student editors wrote, "In the critical days of the spring of 1942, many of us are in doubt as to what the future may bring into our lives. All of us shall be called upon to make sacrifices and to alter our way of living in the days that are to come. It may be that in these days of crisis a school annual seems a more or less unnecessary expenditure of time and energy. Yet, faced with the uncertainty of the future, some may feel that only the past is secure. Thus, perhaps more than in any other recent year, THE AGGIE is important to us. For in it we find a record of the still relatively carefree days of our youth when our duties and responsibilities were comparatively light. In it, too, we find our classmates, friends and teachers who may be widely scattered before many months have gone by. The past with its memories of the joys which have come to us, the work we have accomplished and the friends we have known cannot be taken from us."

Northwest Superintendent T.M. McCall echoed the fatalistic attitude. "We had hoped in 1918 that your and future generations would never have to experience the horrors of war. You have reached the age when you no longer need to be shielded from the grim realities of life. You have served your apprenticeship; you have qualified for service; you have won your stripes and we are sending you into the front lines in the battle for preservation of our democratic way of life . . . We trust that the spirit of the song, 'Fight, Northwest Aggies,' will carry you on to victory in all your worthwhile endeavors."

Co-eds learned about tractor operation in the '40's.
The blizzard of 1943 hit so fast. People didn’t stay in their cars. Some made it to the dorms, but others went in the opposite direction into the fields and that’s what caused the loss of so many lives.

Living with the war in Europe and its effects on the Red River Valley became of utmost importance. Students were required to leave their sugar ration cards at the school in order to adhere to government regulations that books be deposited at any hotel, school or institution that served 12 or more meals a week to an individual. There was no football program in 1942. The schedule was curtailed to save on gas and rubber. At the one football game played, the Homecoming game against Morris, former students and graduates on leave from service were admitted to the Homecoming dance free if in uniform. School training was geared so students should learn all phases of agricultural production for all-out production of food for the “war effort.” R.J. Christgau, instructor and athletic director for 13 years, became field director of recreation for the American Red Cross. The major theme of the Winter Shows dealt with the war.

In the Northwest Monthly, it was stated that shortage of farm labor in the Red River Valley pressed home “the advantage of the six-month school year for farm boys and girls.”

The large murals were installed at Kiehle Auditorium in 1942, a gift of the class of ’32. The life-sized murals were painted by John Martin Socha of St. Paul, and depicted the signing of the treaty near Huot in which the Indians signed over the Red River Valley for settlement by white men, “The Old Crossing Treaty.” The other mural was “The Discovery of America by the Norsemen.” The murals are still at Kiehle, along with smaller ones also painted by Socha.

T.A. Hoverstad, first station superintendent, died in March of 1943 at the age of 75. During that year, the annual alumni reunion was postponed until Homecoming because of the gas and labor shortage.

At the 1944 Winter Shows, war bond records were set when donated animals were sold at auction and brought a total of $1,378,011. By September of that year, eight alumni were counted among the war casualties.

In 1945 the unimaginable happened. For the first time in 35 years, Winter Shows activities were canceled. The action was taken to conform to the denial of a permit from the National Committee on Conventions and Meetings in Washington, D.C. It was denied because the Winter Shows did not “contribute directly to the war effort.” Livestock, poultry and crops shows were held as scheduled, however, because the Show’s Board of Managers felt agricultural production did contribute directly.

Victory came in Europe that spring, and McCall wrote in the Northwest Monthly, “As I look across the campus this morning on Tuesday, May 8, with President Truman’s V-E Proclamation still fresh in my thoughts, I see Old Glory at half-mast in memory of our fallen Commander-in-Chief, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. To those of us at the Northwest School, the flag at half-mast also honors the 14 Northwest School boys who have given their all for the right of people to live without oppression.”

During the summer there were more Northwest alumni casualties. Two died in July, one in August. But changes were taking place, gearing the country for the unsettled peace that was coming. The Russian food commissioner visited the Red River Valley and toured typical farms in the area with Superintendent McCall. He spent a great deal of time at the Strickler Brothers’ farm near Euclid and at the Florance farm near Northcote. He wanted to see how Americans farmed so he could implement some of the techniques for Russian farmers.

The 50th anniversary of the Northwest Experiment Station was observed during 1945. Ironically, earlier that year A.D. Stephens, pioneer resident and banker in Crookston, died. The former state senator had been instrumental in getting the first state appropriation from the legislature for the establishment of the Northwest School of Agriculture. The first, and largest, dormitory for boys was named in his honor.

By the end of 1945, the four long years of war were officially over. Farmers’ Week and Winter Shows activities were again being planned for 1946. The evening speaker would be Congressman Walter Judd. His topic was “Peacetime Uses of Atomic Energy.”

There are families who have sent second and third generations through school here. Some are continuing that tradition with their sons or daughters attending UMC.
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.
By 1948, 56 veterans were enrolled in the on-the-farm training program, and T.M. Pulkrabek was hired as the field supervisor. The alumni association voted to purchase a Memorial Plaque to be placed on the war monument at the campus entrance, listing the 14 Northwest alumni who had died during World War II. By January of 1949, the fund for the memorial totaled $611.48. Because the amount exceeded the sum necessary for the plaque, the rest was to go to the school's organ fund. The plaque was unveiled at the November 1949 Armistice day services.

In 1949, Herman Skyberg of Fisher, a 1916 graduate of the School, was elected as a University of Minnesota regent. Northwest School personnel were obviously pleased with the choice.

Forty years of Northwest School history had transpired by 1949, and during the annual summer reunion, graduates of the first class ('09) were given special recognition. Three members of that first graduating class attended. Mollie Fossbakken came from Redlands, California, and Lewis and Chris Fossbakken came from Fosston.

The weather summary of 1949 forecast high water problems that were to come. Rainfall for the year was 5.72 inches above the average, and the May 1949 precipitation amounted to 7.24 inches, the greatest amount for any one month since records had begun to be kept 50 years before.

**Home project winners, 1947.**

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**These Northwest School employees had given a total of 247 years of service in 1949. Top row, l to r, were Juel Torvi (26 yrs.), O. M. Kiser (28), A. J. Anderson (28), A. M. Pilkey (25). Bottom row, l to r, H. Fontaine (37), T. M. McCall (38), Kate Bedard (33), and A. M. Foker (32).**

Crookston residents didn’t appreciate the song, “How High’s the Water, Mama?” in 1950, and the flooding was no joke. In the April-May edition of the Northwest School News, it was stated, “The Red River Valley area has been visited by the most disastrous floods in more than 50 years. The damage from the floods of the Red River of the North and its tributaries will run into stupendous figures, the total amount of which cannot be determined for some time.” Farm land had from three to ten feet of water standing, and there was no possible way it could all be drained in time for full-season crops.

During the flood of 1950, “We took a boat up to where we were met to be taken to campus. Then on campus, we took a boat to the Kiehle building to work.”

Dormitory facilities on the campus offered temporary facilities for area evacuees, and 63 persons were housed in Stephens Hall. “The greatest damage to the farm land came from the duration of the flood (four to seven weeks), which delayed, and in many instances, prevented the seeding of crops,” it was stated in the paper. Even land that wasn’t flooded by overflow waters was kept wet because of frequent rains. Seeding in the heavy soil areas of the upper Red River Valley ran from three to five weeks behind schedule.

The 1950 floods did not occur entirely because of the precipitation which fell during the winter of 1949-50 and the spring of 1950. Since 1939, lakes, marshes and natural reservoirs had been filling and were filled to overflowing in 1949. The School News called for “coordinated action” between agencies working for water conservation and drainage. In 1949, the Northwest School and Station began a study of water run-off. Much more study and information was needed, the School News writers stated.

Agriculture and the Northwest School and Station were always in close contact. The School held a welding clinic and more than 275 attended. A Soil Improvement Forum brought more than 375 farmers, and 1,000 attended the Crops and Soils Day. A Women’s Camp was held on campus annually for years. In 1950, 111 women attended from 11 counties in northwestern Minnesota, and from two counties in North Dakota. Topics of general interest to farm women were discussed at the camp, which was held from June 12 to June 15.

C.G. Selvig, who was superintendent from 1910 to 1927, wrote a history of the Northwest School and Station. The book was titled “A Tale of Two Valleys” and dealt with his life in the Root River Valley in southern Minnesota and in the Red River Valley. The artwork was done by Harold Grandy, a 1915 graduate who became a commercial artist in Detroit. Thorval Tunheim, class of 1916, was a former newspaper editor and he was employed to do the editing for the book. The book was well-received by area residents, and was for sale during various campus events. That same year Selvig, whose first wife had died some years earlier, married Mabel Sewall, who had taught at the School from 1912 through 1917.

Members of the school’s crops judging team, with coach Olaf Soine (top right), 1955.
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.

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.
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.
Northwest School alumni were recognized for their leadership abilities again in 1960, when two graduates and three past students were recipients of the Valley Farmer and Homemaker Awards at the Winter Shows. Graduates Lawrence O. Peterson of Lockhart, '31, and Robert W. Larson of Crookston, '30, were honored, as were past students Laurence Ward, St. Vincent; Oscar Oswald, Newfolden; and Alfred Hallstrom.

Past school faculty member Retta Bede was honored in 1961, when the home economics building was named for her. Also that year, assistant professor and animal husbandman A.M. Pilkey retired after teaching at the school for 39 years. Past superintendent and professor emeritus T.M. McCall was busy in 1961 writing "The Centennial History of Polk County."

A new building housed the Red River Valley Winter Shows in 1962. Visitors during the week of the Shows totaled 29,733, breaking all previous attendance records. That year, too, the Experiment Station's annual Crops Day featured a Land-Grant Centennial program, remembering the act of 1862 that established Land Grant colleges, including the University of Minnesota.

Nine graduates out of a class of 20 attended the class of 1913 alumni reunion in 1963. Mrs. Nils Pederson (Teckla Erlandson) of Bejou was the only female in the class, and she was present 50 years later with her husband, also a 1913 grad.

Northwest alums continued to make news. Leonard Yutrzenka of Argyle, '42, was honored as King Agassiz IV during Winter Shows in 1964. Of the 11 county King Agassiz nominees, four were Northwest School graduates.

But times were changing. At one time, 118 schools similar to the Northwest School operated in the U.S., attaining peak influence during the 1920's. By the 1960's, only a handful were still in operation.

The trend away from county agricultural schools began after the initiation of the Smith-Hughes Act, which provided federal assistance for the teaching of agricultural extension and vocational agricultural classes in regular high schools. At the Northwest School, enrollment had lessened since transportation was no longer a big problem. It was unnecessary to board at schools after the development of the automobile and the improvement of roads.

Station-School superintendent B.E. Youngquist did an in-depth study of agricultural schools during the early 1950's, and concluded that schools of this type were outmoded. His study was published as a thesis, and it triggered subsequent studies by the University of Minnesota, and several governmental and private groups.

During the early spring and summer of 1963, the University of Minnesota Bureau of Field Studies made a study of the role of the Northwest School of Agriculture. Three principal recommendations were made. It was recommended that the Northwest Experiment Station be strengthened and expanded appropriately "to meet the needs of the evolving agricultural economy." The study also recommended that continuing education in the form of adult short courses for farmers and for persons who serviced farmers be expanded. Finally, the study urged consideration of the phasing out of the Northwest School and the launching of a college-level technical institute.

University President O. Meredith Wilson appointed an ad hoc committee to recommend plans for phasing out the high school and to recommend as specifically as possible the staff and facilities needed to open a technical institute.
Committee chairman was Stanley J. Wenberg, vice president of Educational Relationships and Development. The committee included several University of Minnesota faculty members and Northwest Superintendent Youngquist.

A meeting was held with the liaison committee on higher education, a coordinating body created by the State Legislature. The planning committee for the technical institute was charged to propose a curriculum for the college that would be considered by the University Board of Regents at their June meeting. The Regents would study the proposals and make their recommendations to the 1965 legislature.

The charge wasn't taken lightly. The Technical Institute Planning Committee visited other states to study schools with programs similar to what the institute would probably offer. The committee originally concentrated on two or three possible offerings, including agricultural production technology, agri-business management and sales, and health-related technologies, with supporting courses in general education.

"The open-dorm lifestyle of today was unthought of then. Of course, the students were younger, and for many this was the first time they were away from home. They went home for Thanksgiving and for Christmas, and for the rest of the time the campus was really the only world they knew."

High school instruction continued amid the flurry of activity surrounding the proposed college. In keeping with the more technical farming methods, a course in aeronautics was offered for senior students. Bo Magnus Nordenswan of Finland arrived as a foreign exchange student at the Northwest School.

Links to the past were present, however. Past Superintendent T. M. McCall died on March 21, 1965 at the age of 77. His funeral was held at Kiehle auditorium on campus. A. M. Foker also died that year. He had been department head of agricultural engineering and supervisor of buildings and grounds, and had been with the school from 1917 to 1954. Austin A. Dowell, Station-School superintendent from 1927 to 1937, was named to the Red River Valley Winter Shows Hall of Fame in 1965.

In March 1965, 90 students graduated. That same month, action by the Board of Regents discontinued any more freshman classes at the School, and the ninth grade class of 1964-65 was determined to be the final high school class that would graduate.

Youngquist wrote in the Northwest School News that "The decision to close out the ninth grade is consistent with recommendations made by two 1959 Legislative interim commissions and with results of constant study of the role of the University's agricultural schools." Being phased out at the same time was the North Central School of Agriculture at Grand Rapids. Only the Southwest School of Agriculture at Waseca remained as a high school.

Although it was generally agreed that with the rapidly expanding agricultural economy a college better fit the needs of the Valley, the merits of the high school did not go unrecognized. Youngquist said, "Every major agricultural practice in the Valley was either pioneered or tested by the school. The school brought the fruits of technology to the area despite the early skepticism of Valley farmers." He noted that the first sugar beets grown in the Valley were harvested from the school's test plots in 1910, and the school raised the first locally grown alfalfa.

"Time of change—Superintendent Youngquist (left) poses with S.D. Sahlstrom, new director of the Technical Institute."

Stanley D. Sahlstrom was appointed director of the new institute in the fall of 1965. Sahlstrom had been director of field services at St. Cloud State College, and in his new position he was given the responsibility of directing the development of curriculum at Crookston, and of administering activities that would lead to the opening of the University of Minnesota Technical Institute in the fall of 1966.

Most important, Sahlstrom had the enthusiasm and energy necessary for forming a technical-collegiate school from the ground up. He and those working with him had the task of telling people what kind of education this new school would offer. He was busy recruiting faculty members to teach at the new school, and he was involved in working on the curriculum to be offered at the two-year college.

Initial courses would be offered in agricultural technology, agricultural operations, agri-business, accounting, marketing and merchandising, and small business management, plus an advanced secretarial program. Added to that would be a strong core of general education courses.

The technical-collegiate concept of education in Minnesota was a fledgling, with few guidelines to follow. By the time Northwest students arrived that fall, the transition from high school to college had begun. The many hopes of what the college would eventually become were being implemented. Target-date for the beginning of classes was one year away, and much had to be accomplished during that year to make people, and prospective students, aware that a college was beginning in northwest Minnesota.
Historic moment—the Torch of Education is passed from Northwest School representative David Bohnsack to Ron Tobkin, Technical Institute student.

Sahlstrom was the speaker at the 58th commencement of Northwest School graduates in March 1966. He addressed the 72 graduating seniors, speaking on “Tomorrow is Yours.”

Two years later, on March 22, 1968, the last class of the Northwest School of Agriculture graduated. The 60th and final commencement exercises were held in Kiehle auditorium, and 42 seniors received diplomas.

The Northwest School graduated 5,433 students during its 63-year-old history. In addition, between 500 to 600 completed the teachers’ training course offered at the School between 1912 and 1919.

Superintendent B.E. Youngquist awarded the final diplomas. He commented “While closing this school is saddening, it’s necessary. Its closing is logical because the technical college concept makes it as old fashioned as the butter churn.” Regent Herman F. Skyberg suggested the final commencement of the Northwest School was further evidence of the evolution of education in Minnesota.

Before a packed auditorium audience, a moving ceremony took place on that March day. David Bohnsack of Hillsboro, N.D., president of the Northwest class of ’68, transferred the lighted Torch of Educational Service to Ron Tobkin of Perham, Student Senate treasurer for the Institute. The ceremony marked the passing of the educational duties to the new institution.

A long and proud history had come to an end. A new one was beginning.
Station and School Superintendent T. M. McCall retired in 1956, and at the 50th anniversary of the Northwest School of Agriculture, McCall presented a resume of the school during the anniversary program on June 30, 1956. Many of his recollections seemed worth noting, and excerpts from his speech follow.

Agitation for a School of Agriculture was started during the administration of T.A. Hoverstad, the first superintendent of the Northwest Experiment Station . . . Mr. Hoverstad told me that his agitation for the School of Agriculture at Crookston did not meet with the approval of the University administration, and that such a school would be an unwanted child in the University inasmuch as the administration considered the Central School (at St. Paul) adequate for all state needs. Under the leadership of Senator A.D. Stephens, a leading banker in the city of Crookston and a member of the Legislature, a small appropriation was secured from the Legislature to establish a School of Agriculture at Crookston. Funds were raised locally, also, to assist in the first year’s operation of the school. The School was established and Professor William Robertson, a member of the staff of the Central School of Agriculture at St. Paul, was appointed the first superintendent. School opened its doors for students during the fall of 1906, with a school building—now the Home Economics building, a shop building, a farmhouse, horse and dairy barns, and a sheep shed. Girls were housed in the farmhouse with the superintendent and his family; the boys were given dormitory space on the third floor of the new school building . . . The main part of the Superintendent’s residence was built in 1907, which released the farmhouse for the housing of girls in its entirety.

The school opened in October 1906 with 31 students in attendance. The enrollment for the second year reached a total of 41; the third year 103; and from that point on, the attendance was never less than 100. The 200 mark was reached in 1914-15, and with a few minor exceptions remained above that figure until the 300 enrollment figure was attained in 1928-29. The enrollment figure reached a 400 mark in 1937-38, and from that time until the present, the enrollment has been around 400 or more with the exception of two years where the enrollment went to 385 and to 395. The peak enrollment at the school occurred in the year 1938-39 at which time a large number of special students under the National Youth Administration program were given specialized training for one year. The special students were girls from the White Earth and Red Lake Indian Reservations that were given special work in home economics and business training. Their registration brought the enrollment up to 479 . . .

During the early days of the School, board, room, lights and laundry cost per student amounted to $15 per month. Students and parents admitted that this was cheaper than the folks could live at home. A case in point occurred in 1914 when a member of our staff was stopped on the highway and asked by a highway worker, a man of some 40 years, what it cost to live at the school. When told . . . he said, “I will come up and enroll this fall because it is cheaper than I can live elsewhere.” And the man did enroll and attend classes for the entire school year . . .

The early problem with campus roads was to get out of the mud. The soil water table was quite near the surface, and as a result, wagons—and later trucks and busses—were easily mired down on the campus drive . . . Gravel and cinders hauled on the roadway simply disappeared. C. G. Selvig carried on an intensive campaign to secure paving for the campus drives. Due to the fact that there was no paving on any of the drives on the St. Paul campus and only a very little paving on the main University Campus at that time, Mr. Selvig ran into considerable resistance. He was persistent, however, and carried on quite a picture campaign in which pictures of the deep-rutted roads, cars and busses mired down on the campus drives were sent to, then, President L. D. Coffman at the University . . . Finally paving became a reality in the late 1920’s. President Coffman remarked at the time that paving was completed that he was sorry we got the paving because he knew that he would never know again “when it rained in Crookston.”

The School relied on horse and buggy and horse-drawn bus transportation through the early years until the first bus was put into service in 1918. For transportation to and from Crookston, the faculty were given the privilege of driving their own farm team hitched to a two-seated spring wagon. When the roads were open, the same vehicle was winterized by putting runners on the axles, instead of wheels, as soon as the snow fell in the fall . . . Students came to spend the entire term with us; each student was provided with a large trunk and a number of suitcases.

Up until 1910, it appears that one instructor was engaged for each of the major departments in both agriculture and academic subjects . . . In 1911, a number of new staff members were employed, including myself . . . In the early years, we were called upon to do a lot of Extension work in the counties of the Red River Valley. This activity required considerable expenditure of time for the amount of time actually spent in the Extension work. Due to poor transportation connections by train, it was necessary for us to spend two nights in order to attend a day meeting at Climax which is some 20 miles from the Experiment Station. To attend a meeting in Oklee or towns on the Soo-Line required changing trains twice and two nights at Erskine . . .
A livestock parade at annual Visiting Day, 1919.

Through the inspiration of former Superintendent C.G. Selvig, a Farmers' and Homemakers' Week was started at the Northwest School during the winter of 1910-11... The Winter Shows meetings were taken to Crookston in 1914 where the first Crops Show was held in the old Commercial Hotel and the meetings were held in the Grand Theater. Later as the Armory was built, meetings and shows were transferred to the Armory... Organizations have cooperated through the years in building up the Shows...

My final tribute is to the graduates and to the student body of the Northwest School of Agriculture. I feel that our students have taken advantage of the training given and are making names for themselves. Their performance in their communities has been responsible for the growth of our institution...
Lindberg remembers . . . reprinted from the March 1975 issue of UMC Inside Out

William Lindberg

The caption under the yearbook photo reads: "An earnest, energetic fellow is Bill, Who in mechanics has acquired great skill."

That appeared in the 1912 yearbook, "Shock," and William Lindberg was one of the 23 Northwest School of Agriculture graduates that year.

Still hearty and in good health, Lindberg enjoys reminiscing about his days at the School, when only a few buildings stood, roads were unpaved, and chill winds swept the treeless campus.

He remembers, "We planted the trees now on campus. They were brought from Fosston, and we spent many hours over the years planting them. We planted them a little too thick, but we were afraid they might die out. We made 10 cents an hour doing it, good money for students in those days. The girls planted a few, too, so they could say they helped."

Lindberg was born in Waseca County, but in 1904 the family moved to a homestead in Red Lake County near where Oklee is today, known then as the Red Lake Indian Reservation. "My dad was a teacher, but it was hard to support a growing family on $45 a month. He went to the land office in Crookston and filed his claim. You had to live on the land three years and then pay the government $1.25 an acre. The land is still in the family; my sister lives on the place."

The Lindbergs first lived in a log cabin on their homestead. Later a frame house was built. The outbuildings, of which one remains, were of logs. "It was much different then. There were no roads, no schools or churches or stores. There was no Oklee. All the land had to be cleared of timber by hand."

Bill and his two brothers and six sisters attended school in buildings that were usually one-room deserted places where "bachelors" had lived. Students sat on benches of rough planks. "We were required to go to school 40 days of the year then," he reflects.

"My dad always said the Ag School gave people the training needed for life in the Red River Valley. We boarded at the school and only went to town if we really needed something. We got home at Christmas. There were three buildings on campus, and we went to class from 8 to 5:30 for six months. We had Sunday and Monday off."

A young C. G. Selvig was school director then, and 13 faculty were on the teaching staff. The class of 1912 participated in men’s and women's basketball, they had a class play, and there was a school band. Lindberg continued to play for dances throughout northern Minnesota in later years. A special song was written for the class of 1912, "Song of Farewell," by faculty member N. E. Schwartz. Lindberg still has the sheet music.

In 1916 Lindberg married Helga Lindfors, another 1912 graduate. "She gave a baking powder biscuit demonstration at commencement," Bill remembers. "They were good."

Following graduation, Bill attended college at the University of Minnesota for one year, worked for the Northwest Experiment Station for one year, and then worked as creamery manager at Gonvick and Gary, Minnesota and Minto, North Dakota. He managed the Warren Co-op Creamery for seven years, and then became field manager for Land O'Lakes for 24 years until his retirement from business. He now spends much of his time as director of handicrafts for men at the Senior Citizens' Center in Warren. He's lived alone in Warren since his wife died.

"Oh, I have plenty to keep me busy," Bill declares. "I work at the Center, and I went to Norway five years ago." He's interested in genealogy and compiled a history of the Lindberg family ancestry. "I've been in dairy work all my life, and many of my ancestors were involved in that, too."
Lindberg's son, Bill, Jr., follows the family custom. He's a government dairy inspector in Chicago. A second son, Lowell, lives in Sioux City, Ia., where he's a postman and operates a specialty shop. Both sons attended the School of Agriculture for a time, as did Lindberg's two brothers.

"I've seen a lot of changes. I remember well the muddy streets of Crookston. I saw horses up to their knees in gumbo. I've seen the Red River Valley become a sugar beet land. The Experiment Station had a lot of influence in that."

Agriculture is the backbone of the country, Lindberg says, and the well-being of the nation depends on how agriculture fares. He speculates that more and more young people will return to farming. "A lot of people are getting tired of the big city. They're thinking about farming more, especially in southern Minnesota. I hope we'll see more livestock. It's foolish for farmers to go to town to buy eggs and milk and meat."

The trees on campus are large now, and many buildings have been added since Bill Lindberg first attended classes in 1910. "Those trees were tiny little saplings when we put them in the ground, and look at them now. That's a sign of progress, isn't it?"

When the school year of 1911 came, it found the girls of the C. S. of A. encamped on the third floor of Stephens Hall. During the time the girls lived in Stephens Hall, Hallowe’en with its usual pranks came.

After study hours had begun that night, suddenly a piercing and shrieking noise was heard down the hall. It was from the girls caused by a goose that was trying to walk down that broad, slippery floor. That evening’s frolic came to an end after a lunch of hot coffee served to the boys by themselves in the domestic science room.

The only other interesting thing that happened while in Stephens Hall was the time Vesta tried to demonstrate her ability to fly down the stairs instead of using the steps. It ended very happily because Vesta’s good nature is always in evidence.

Moving day was cold. Never-the-less, a train of trunks, traveling bags and band boxes proceeded all day from Stephens Hall to the dormitory.

In the new dormitory the girls often had spreads among themselves. The study table served the purpose of dining table. Fancy dishes were in most cases scarce, but a good time was always reported.

Ghost story parties often occurred after study hours. Sometimes the girls took their pillows and squatted down on the floor in some room, and told ghost stories. Afterwards they had a lunch.

Parlor meetings were not very common. But when the preceptress said that they would have one, they all knew there was something coming, usually good advice.

To you who are left may come another year or two of dormitory life. Make the most of it, girls. Take your scoldings and have some fun. We leave; our thoughts are with you.

“A little work, a little play,
To keep us going and so good-day!
A little warmth, a little light
Of love’s bestowing and so good-night!
A little fun to match the sorrow
Of each day’s growing and so good-morrow!
A little trust that when we die
We reap our sowing, and so good-by!

First graduating class

First Graduating Class - 1909
Christopher Fossbakken, Fosston, Minnesota
Lewis Fossbakken, Fosston, Minnesota
Mollie Fossbakken, Fosston, Minnesota
Olaf Nelson, St. Hilaire, Minnesota
Olivia Nelson, St. Hilaire, Minnesota
Lena Opdahl, Alden, Minnesota
Albert Peterson, Crookston, Minnesota
Louis Regeimbal, Crookston, Minnesota

First faculty

T.A. Hoverstad 1896-1906
William Robertson 1906-1910
Theresa Woodruff 1908-1910
L.P. Harrington 1909-1910
Agnes Arrivee 1910
J.D. Billsborrow 1910
C.E. Brown 1910
G.A. Danielson 1910
H.R. Danielson 1910
Lewis Fossbakken 1910
Rita McLaren 1910
Medora Paddock 1910
H.H. Powers 1910
N.E. Schwartz 1910
Conrad Selvig 1910
Musa Slade 1910
Oscar Buhr 1911
R.B. Baxter 1911
Laura Franklyn 1911
T.M. McCall 1911
Bess Rowe 1911
F.H. Sargent 1911
T.R. Sewall 1911
John Avelsgaard, Crookston, Minnesota
Randolph Bertsch, Hillsboro, N.D.
David Bohnsack, Hillsboro, N.D.
Steve Boman, Twin Valley, Minnesota
Steven Bouton, Ulen, Minnesota
Donald Chisholm, Grand Forks, N.D.
David Claerbout, Warren, Minnesota
A. Terry Erickson, Roseau, Minnesota
Julie Gabrielson, Ada, Minnesota
James Gatheridge, Humboldt, Minnesota
Karen Good, Trail, Minnesota
Dennis Goodyke, Crookston, Minnesota
Duane Haarstad, Fergus Falls, Minnesota
Michael Hills, Bowesmont, N.D.
Donald Hingst, Crosby, N.D.
Orville Ingvalson, Crookston, Minnesota
Keith Jacobson, Fergus Falls, Minnesota
Gailan Johnson, Waskish, Minnesota
William Jung, Crookston, Minnesota
Robert Kliner, Warren, Minnesota
Elaine Kovar, East Grand Forks, Minnesota
DeAnn Lalli, Graceton, Minnesota
Gail Lewis, Perham, Minnesota
Paul Malakowski, Lockhart, Minnesota
Ronald Marquardt, Rothers, Minnesota
Richard Martell, Oklee, Minnesota
Patricia Miller, Moorhead, Minnesota
Barbara Nelson, Grygla, Minnesota
Larry Nelson, Grafton, N.D.
Daniel Nephew, Crookston, Minnesota
Orrin Osowski, Oslo, Minnesota
Theodore Paul, Crookston, Minnesota
Earl Redmann, Crystal, N.D.
Larry Rivard, Oslo, Minnesota
Lawrence Schreiber, Foxhome, Minnesota
Allan Shimpa, Euclid, Minnesota
Richard Sikorski, Lancaster, Minnesota
Charles Steiner, Foxhome, Minnesota
Paul Swanson, Euclid, Minnesota
Gary Webster, St. Vincent, Minnesota
Robert Weng, Hillsboro, N.D.
Gordon Zurn, Callaway, Minnesota
William Zurn, Callaway, Minnesota
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Information for this alumni book has been gathered from the following sources:


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Photographs used in this book courtesy of the Northwest Experiment Station archives.