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.

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

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).