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...
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...