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?”

The majority of faculty members lived on campus, along “faculty row,” on the far eastern side of the campus. The houses eventually became costly to keep up, so as new faculty members came in, they were encouraged to live in town. Because of the campus housing, faculty members were very close.

Faculty Row.

At the Northwest School, where Armistice Day programs were well-attended and past events were solemnly remembered, war clouds did not seem as far away as they had a generation before, when Northwest students had joined in the “war to end all wars.”

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.