Juel Torvi began working at the Northwest Experiment Station in 1923 as a farmhand. Horse power, four-bottom plows, ten-foot springtooth cultivators, two-row corn planters, five-foot hay mowers and loose hay loaders, were the frontline equipment of the day. Steam engines and Rumley Oil Pull tractors lumbered over the prairie on the large grain farms.

Torvi rose quickly to the position of farm foreman. In the 1920's a typical morning saw him harnessing 16 horses. Decades later, he was entirely familiar with self-propelled grain combines, sugarbeet harvesters, forage choppers, multi-row planters and fertilizer applicators.

He walked to work every day, including his later years—although then, he was only a quarter of a mile away in a house provided for the farm foreman. Torvi completed 48 years of continuous service.

**Northwest Station Given Land**

The original grant of land by James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railroad, included three quarter sections of Section 19, which adjoined the city of Crookston. The southwest quarter was not deeded to the University at that time.  

February 1, 1924, James T. Maher, land commissioner of the Great Northern Railroad Company, advised Honorable Fred B. Snyder, president of the University Board of Regents, that the remainder of the southwest quarter, excluding the fair grounds, be donated to the Northwest Experiment Station and a deed be issued to the University. The value of the gift was $20,000.

Selvig wrote in 1925, “During these 30 years the erstwhile ‘duck pond’ has been transformed into an efficient investigational center.” During these 19 years of the Northwest School, over 2,000 young men and women have received training and inspiration for their life's work. After considering “the plight of the farmers,” Selvig decided to run for U.S. Congress. He had two goals: to encourage farmers to organize, and to concentrate on farmers’ marketing problems. In November, 1926, C. G. Selvig was elected congressman for Minnesota’s Ninth Congressional District.

**Winter Shows Continues Growth**

The first winter series of Institutes, begun in 1910 by the University, continued. It soon outgrew the space on the campus and was moved to facilities in Crookston. In 1918, the official combined premium and program book was entitled “The Red River Valley Farm Crops Show and Northwestern Minnesota Farmers Week Meetings”. In 1925, the program book and premium book was entitled “The Red River Valley Classic – The Red River Valley Winter Show.” In 1928, it was called “The Northwest School Farmer’s Week and the Red River Valley Winter Shows.”

This title lasted until 1969 when the event became “The Red River Valley Winter Show and the Northwest Farm and Home Week,” the title used until 1993 when it became “The Red River Valley Shows.”

Over the years, the early 1910 “show and tell” sessions on campus enlarged to facilities covering many acres on the north edge of Crookston. The University provided the leadership and organizational planning, the superintendents

Lamb feeding trials were held at the Experiment Station in the 1920's.