of the Station always serving as president. Tradition was broken in 1982 when Dr. James Lofgren, of the Dahlgren Company, Crookston, was elected. The University gradually pulled back from the heavy responsibility of the Shows. Times had changed!

**Early Extension Work**

Farmers in the area were vitally interested in any new progress in the areas of crop and animal science but roads were almost impassable for many months of the year. Researchers from the Northwest School and Experiment Station went to the small towns around the area to inform various groups.

T.M. McCall stated, “Due to poor transportation connections by trains, it was necessary to spend two nights in order to attend a day meeting at Climax which is some twenty miles from the Experiment Station. To attend a meeting in Oklee or towns on the Soo Line required changing trains twice and spending two nights in Erskine. We could attend meetings as far north as Middle River and return home the same day providing the meeting time was between trains.”

**Austin A. Dowell** succeeded Selvig as Superintendent on April 15, 1927. Dr. Dowell graduated from Iowa State College in 1915. He taught in Iowa, and then was the head of the Animal Husbandry Department at the University of Alberta, Canada. From there, he went on to the University of Minnesota, working with the Extension Division five years before coming to Crookston. He was granted a leave of absence in 1933-34 to direct special studies in livestock marketing for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Washington, D.C. Dr. Dowell collaborated with Dr. O.B. Jesness in the publication of a book *The American Farmer and the Export Market*.

Martin Rud was born in Viking Township, December 13, 1897. He lived in the Viking area and graduated from the Northwest School of Agriculture. He began his employment at the Northwest School and Station in 1928 and worked in the agronomic area until his retirement in 1963. He was chief assistant to Dr. Olaf Soine, putting in many research plots. In those early years Rud pulled the seed, tools, and markers behind his personal car in a small two wheel trailer.

Rud spent long hours at the elevator cleaning, organizing, and setting aside lots for pure seed growers. He never married, the Station was his adult life. He was an avid fisherman, his fishing boat often parked beside the elevator for a quick evening trip.

**The Depression Years**

The Dirty Thirties—The Depression, by whatever name it was given, 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.

Rainfall at the Northwest Experiment Station was recorded as the lowest since 1920. The season was also the warmest on record. Rainfall did not improve in 1933, and in September emergency repair work was necessary on Kiehle Building. Due to the five year dry period, the ground had shrunk and footings had settled causing extensive damage to building walls, especially on the southwest corner.

A “windbreak campaign” began in 1934 to prevent some of the wind damage caused by the drought. Each farmer was encouraged to plant from 150 to 200 trees on each quarter section. In 1935, the entire NWSA student body signed pledges to plant at least one white elm on home grounds, designating the elms as Northwest School trees.

Farmers never wavered in their thought that “education and information” would fit their sons and daughters for usefulness on the land and in the homes of the territory - enrollment increased during the depression rather than decrease as might have been expected.