Speakers and dignitaries at the Northwest Experiment Station's 40th anniversary celebration were:
Standing: Dean W.C. Coffey, and Superintendent A.A. Dowell.

The silver anniversary celebration of the Northwest School Farmers' Week was observed in early 1935. An historical pageant was presented during the Winter Shows, and from the interest it generated, it was decided to form a Valley-wide historical society.

40th Anniversary
On June 15, 1935, the Northwest Experiment Station observed its 40th anniversary. Dignitaries included T.A. Hoverstad, first station superintendent, 1895 to 1905; C.G. Selvig, superintendent, 1910 to 1927; W.C. Coffey, dean and director of the University Department of Agriculture; and A.D. Stephens, former state senator.

Station-School Superintendent Dowell resigned in April, 1937, to accept a position at the University Farm in St. Paul. T.M. McCall, horticulturist at the school for 25 years, succeeded Dowell as superintendent.

A New Leader – A New Era
Thomas M. McCall, who succeeded A.A. Dowell, was appointed to serve as Superintendent in May, 1937. He was born December 25, 1887, at McCallisburg, Iowa. He graduated from Iowa State College where he majored in horticulture and forestry. After serving briefly at his alma mater as an assistant in entomology and instructor of horticulture, he joined the staff at the Northwest School and Experiment Station in 1911.

Having survived the deprivations of University budgets during World War I, and the depression years as a staff member, Superintendent McCall brought with him a very conservative outlook. Various factors within the Institute were struggling for themselves, and the distance to St. Paul in those days was real. Budgets were slim at Crookston. All the maintenance lumber on hand for summer repairs in 1954 could have been hauled in a wheelbarrow.