The Northwest Experiment Station was housed in new and remodeled facilities. The Auditorium (left) was added to the old Animal Products Building. The Agricultural Research Center office (right) was built in 1967.

Superintendent B. E. Youngquist presided over the final NWSA graduation on March 22, 1968, at which time 42 seniors received their diplomas. This signaled the finale of the 63-year-old school. Dr. A.A. Dowell, superintendent from 1927 to 1937, was a guest at the final graduation. The Northwest School graduated 5,433 students during this era.

The Transition Continues

The period of phasing out the Northwest School of Agriculture, initiating the new Technical College, and extending the research arm was supported by the University Administration and the Institute.

Research demands soon exceeded staff, land, buildings, and equipment at the Northwest Experiment Station. Superintendent Youngquist and the research staff assisted in the NWSA's phasing out and the beginning of the Technical College, for a brief period Station staff taught collegiate courses.

Priority was given to meet the challenges of research in sunflowers and sugarbeets, improve existing general crops research capabilities, strengthen the livestock projects, acquire much needed land resources, and replace outmoded buildings.

Flocks, herds, and fields of the station were made available to college teaching needs only when they did not interfere with the research in progress. The ever present demand for outreach extension teaching by research personnel left little time for teaching courses in the college.

Minnesota Extension Service

The transition of the College's Experiment Station staff gave thought to new relationships with the Agricultural Extension Service. The Agricultural Research Center was built and attached to the Animal Products Building. Marlin Johnson, Area Extension Crops and Soils Agent, was housed in the updated facility.

Sunflower Research Grows at the Northwest Experiment Station

Dr. Freeman Johnson was appointed to the research staff on July 1, 1963. Dr. Olaf Soine had opened the door to sunflower research. Superintendent Youngquist was convinced that sunflowers were due to be an important crop in northwest Minnesota. Against the advice of others in the Institute, he hired Johnson to research the world order of sunflowers to prepare the way for new selections. The sunflower industry followed early research leads. They soon had huge research programs of their own. Cargill, Inc., Vegetable Oils Division, followed Johnson's work on the Station. They hired Johnson for their research program. In 1966, Youngquist thought, that after only three years, the Station could reduce some aspects of sunflower research.

Dr. James Lofgren joined the staff April 1, 1967. There were still a few questions and research ends in the sunflower area left to conclude. Lofgren pursued these problems until March 31, 1971, when he also joined the industrial trek to become head researcher at Dahlgren's Inc., Crookston.

The Third International Sunflower Conference was held August 13-15, 1968, at Northwest Experiment Station.