In the late thirties, citizens of the Crookston and Red Lake Falls communities acquired a little more than 100 acres of land which included the portion of the Pembina Trail which led to the east bank of the “Old Crossing” and the tract of land on both sides of the river north of the bridge (a tract which had been held by the Northern States Power Company at a site for a power dam). Some preliminary work had been done in planning for this dam before 1920. What appeared to be several hundred-wagon-loads of native granite boulders, which had been purchased from nearby farmers, were dumped over the hill for rip-rapping the banks. It occurred to many interested in this purchase that the time might come when a dam could be built on the site, not for the generation of power but, as a check dam for flood control and to conserve spring run-offs for domestic and industrial uses for the towns downstream dependent on the Red Lake River. Such a reservoir could be a valuable asset to a state park. The land was given to the State of Minnesota and included in the park area.

Because of the highway and river cutting the park area into four parts, the State Park Service classified the two divided portions of the land on the west bank of the river as the “Old Crossing Wayside Park”. To date, funds set aside from the State Department of Public Parks have not been adequate to maintain the whole 8.8 acres of the memorial site. A good picnic area around the Post Office Tree and Bronze Memorial is available for small gatherings. There are great potential possibilities in the development of a beautiful and historic park. The portion of the park on the east bank of the river, south of the present highway through which the Pembina Trail descends from the ridge to the river, is a natural amphitheatre. This tract, of approximately fifteen acres, would require considerable work to get the trees and brush removed from the trail and above the river bank. This park, if it is to be properly developed, remains a challenge not only to the State Park Service but to Polk and Red Lake counties.

1918 November 11, Armistice Day World War I.

1940 November 11, Terrific blizzard and cold wave extending from Canada through the Red River Valley south and south-eastward through Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska. One of the most widespread storms in recent history causing great losses to livestock, turkeys and great damage to trees and shrubs.

1941 March 15th, 9:10 p. m. Terrific blizzard swept down from north striking entire Red River Valley on south and east. Comparable to Jan. 9th storm in 1873 in S. W. Minnesota. Tornado-like winds, heavy snow with temperatures near and below zero. Seventy lives lost in area—several in Crookston area.

1941 December 7th, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor involving the United States in World War II.