



Introduction

This is, briefly told, a story of my life begun in the Root River Valley in Southeastern Minnesota and continued mainly in the Red River Valley of the North in the same state.

It deals with early struggles, aspirations and happy times that led to endeavors in several fields.

It touches upon events in my life and work that later proved significant in the unfolding drama of life.

Its inspiration came principally from friends who wanted me to set down growth and development of the University of Minnesota's Northwest School of Agriculture and Experiment Station during its early formative years and events that followed.

It has been written with a profound feeling of gratitude for opportunity offered there of constructive service and in some aspects of leadership. It would have been impossible to carry out that assignment excepting for whole-hearted encouragement and support of many, many persons in the state and particularly in the Northwestern part commonly referred to as the Red River Valley.

I wish I could list names of them all but this is clearly impossible. Friendships were formed which are the most cherished of all my experiences.

In writing my autobiography it was necessary to refer to countless sources mainly among my accumulated papers, correspondence, newspaper clippings and reports.

I am particularly indebted to Thorval Tunheim, NWSA, 1916, and University of Minnesota, 1921, who read the manuscript and presented many helpful suggestions. To Willis I. Lindquist, author, New York City; Alfred D. Stedman, editor of St. Paul Pioneer Press-Dispatch and his wife who read the manuscript and gave helpful suggestions. The faults of the book are mine. They all helped avoid some.

Harold H. Grandy, Detroit, Michigan, also a graduate of the Northwest School and of other institutions and now art director for a leading commercial art firm graciously furnished the art work in this volume. "A gift to the institution." For this I am truly grateful. He has won a distinguished place in his profession.

To the Northwest School group, including alumni, former and present students, former and present members of the faculty I am greatly indebted for their invaluable assistance in making the publication of this volume possible. In this connection, I am particularly indebted to Ole A. Flaata, Bygland, and his associates.

I am grateful to all. My life has been a happy one from childhood days and on. I liked to work and was especially blessed in having at my side for 46 years my dearly beloved wife who was always ready to join in whatever needed to be done. Our children, too, all did their part with devotion and joy.

*Conrad G. Selvig,
November, 1950.*