



Red River Aggie



Main Avenue of Campus in 1896

School History

CORA AND FLORENCE LINDFORS '19

This experiment station was established in 1895 for the purpose of procuring definite and reliable data concerning the agricultural problems and possibilities of this section. This piece of land was given to the institution by the Great Northern Railway Company with the understanding that a complete series of investigations and experiments regarding surface and tile drainage in the Red River Valley would be carried out.

In the summer of 1903, the state secured the right to use the farm land forever for educational and experimental purposes. In 1905 a grant of \$4000.00 was obtained and the farm was then placed in the charge of Mr. William Robertson. After the experiment farm had been in operation for some years, a movement was begun to secure for this section, a school where boys and girls could be given a practical training similar to that which the parent school at St. Anthony Park had been giving to hundreds of young people from Minnesota farms. This demand came for two reasons: first, because agricultural conditions in the Red River Valley differed radically in many respects from those prevalent in the southern part of the state; second, because the distance from the parent school prevented many in this section from attending that school.

A small appropriation of \$15,000.00 was granted in 1905 for a building, but no funds were provided for maintenance or equipment; so in 1906, when the building was completed, an interested group of citizens from Crookston and vicinity raised \$2500.00 to pay for teachers and to provide for books the first year. The school opened in the fall of 1906 with an enrollment of thirty-one students. The school consisted of only one building. This building was a combination dormitory, dining hall, office and class room. Both the faculty and student body acquired an enthusiasm for the aims and the work of the institution. In 1907 it was decided to erect two buildings: one a dormitory for boys and the other an industrial building. These were completed in 1908. The boys' dormitory was named Stephens Hall in honor of Senator A. D. Stephens of Crookston and the industrial building was named in honor of S. M. Owen.

The student body was increasing every year and during the third year there was an enrollment of over one hundred. The first class that graduated from this school was composed of three girls and five boys. This year two more buildings were provided.

In January 1910 a serious loss befell the school when Supt. Wm. Robertson died. His interest and enthusiasm had been great factors in the prosperity of the school. Mr. C. G. Selvig was selected as suc-