



Red River Aggie

MESSAGES FROM OLD FRIENDS

"The birthday of the Northwest Experiment Farm is July 1, 1895. The person entitled to the credit for originating the idea of establishing an agricultural experiment station at Crookston is Prof. Willet M. Hays. The land was donated by the Great Northern Railroad through the generosity of President James J. Hill. . . . I was made Superintendent of the Station and took charge July 1, 1895. . . ."

"The method of disseminating the information obtained by experiments was by bulletins and public lectures. But neither of these methods did what should be done for the people of the Red River Valley.

"It became apparent that a school would have to be established. It was through the efforts of Mr. A. D. Stephens, then Senator from the Crookston District, that the idea of a school took definite form. The school dates back to 1905 when the law established it by legislative action.

"The station and school are yet in their infancy. They will grow in size and influence. The outlook is that education may go through great changes after this revolutionary depression. But the work of the station and school is so fundamental that I do not anticipate great changes except big development.

"I predict for the station and school great progress."

Sincerely,

T. A. HOVERSTAD.

Dennison, Minnesota,
February 20, 1933.

"We feel highly honored, I am sure, to think the Senior class is dedicating their annual to the class of 1909. It does not seem possible that that should have been twenty-five years ago. At that time the school was so small we were just like one big family.

"It has been interesting to watch the school grow, year by year, from that handful of people to the wonderful institution that the Northwest School of Agriculture is today.

"The members of the class of 1933 should consider themselves lucky that they were not born twenty-five years too soon.

"Everything has to have a beginning, and I am glad that I happen to be among those who were part of the beginning of the Northwest School of Agriculture."

MOLLIE FOSSBAKKEN,
Community Hospital,
Redlands, California.

January 15, 1933.

"It is difficult to put in language the change that has taken place in the physical condition of the Agricultural School from the time of the first graduating class until now. At least, it is difficult to describe it so that the present class can visualize how the school itself appeared twenty-five years ago. It is greatly like trying to compare what is with what never was. At the first graduation there was only the Home Economics building, which was then the whole school. The campus, now beautified by its well kept lawn, sunken garden, and artistically placed trees and shrubbery, had been but recently drained of surface water in which wild fowls were wont to disport. The fine grove of trees that now shelters the school from the north and west winds was then only saplings over which the northwest blizzards blew untrammelled, with the eerie sounds resembling the supposed whine of the Banshee. The grove at the south of the campus had not been planted. A stranger visiting the school at the time of the first graduation and seeing the unremodeled Superintendent's dwelling, the school building itself, the barns to the east, and the sheep occupying the pasture seeking herbage where the snow had melted, would have thought that the place was an over-built farm unit. There were no concrete or graveled walks, mud everywhere, a dread to pedestrians and a menace of being stuck in the mud to the horsedrawn vehicles conveying coal and other necessities to the school, as there was no railroad track to the institution.

"Contrast the rather primitive conditions in 1907 with the present pleasant surroundings and facilities of the school for comfort and living conditions. It has everything that any school has; work shops, swimming pool, gymnasium, auditorium. Yet with all these comforts the cost of attending is as low or lower than that of any school within the land. In addition to these physical comforts it has a faculty that any institution of learning may be proud of."

Crookston, Minn.,
March 2, 1933.

MR. A. D. STEPHENS.