

# The NWSA Alumni Association AGGIE



A Newsletter for Northwest School of Agriculture Alumni and friends of the University of Minnesota, Crookston

Volume 20, Number 3

Spring 2001

## Chancellor Don Sargeant, Continuing the NWSA Vision for the Future of UMC

Liz Tollefson  
Contributing Writer

While attending the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) commencement exercises on Saturday, May 5, my father-in-law, Russell Tollefson ('44), looked over the list of graduates to see if he recognized any names. He was especially interested in any names he knew from attending the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA).

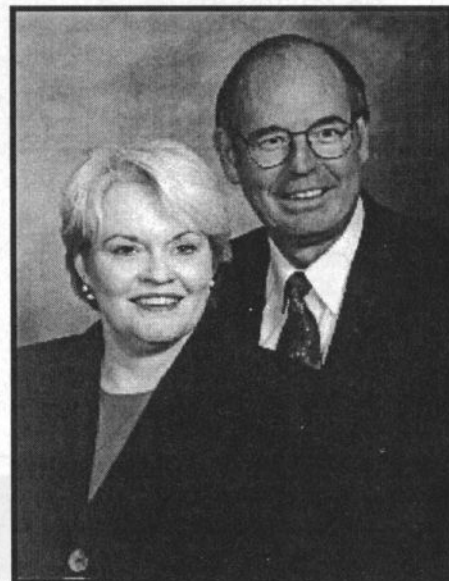
He did recognize a few. Many of the students who attend UMC are related to someone who attended NWSA. That is a source of pride for both generations. It was also a source of pride for Chancellor Don Sargeant when I visited with him about the focus of the UMC campus. The values and attitudes that began with this campus in 1904 continue today. The friendly atmosphere, the opportunity for growth—both personally and academically—and the preparation to meet the challenges of the future are still a big part of the education of UMC students.

In the next six months, the campus plan will be revisited with a focus on the buildings and the campus environment. Although the buildings are important, Chancellor Sargeant wants to focus on maintaining the core values that formed this campus. He is concerned with reaching out and understanding what

UMC will need in the future to meet the concerns of the student of 2001, as well as the student of 2010 and 2020. It is his visionary thinking that has led to the success of UMC as the first laptop university in the country. The vision that built the agricultural school in the early 1900's burns just as fervently today. When the NWSA was built, it met the needs of the time. The students who chose NWSA wanted a better education and life, and that is the same reason students choose UMC today.

Sargeant was raised on a farm and was active in 4-H and FFA. He was influenced by two of his high school teachers, a math and a vocational agriculture instructor. These individuals nurtured his interest in teaching. His own personal drive, combined with his love of agriculture and his desire to teach, allowed him to build a career. After graduating from the University of Illinois with a degree in agricultural education, he taught for five years. Sargeant relished the challenge of getting students to learn, as well as explore ideas on their own.

He was encouraged to get a master's degree and then a doctorate by the Dean of Vocational Education at Illinois State, where his soon-to-be wife, Mary Beth, was working. Taking night classes, Sargeant completed his master's degree at the University of Illi



Mary Beth and Don Sargeant

nois, and then he went on to earn his doctorate in agriculture education from Penn State University with a cognate in education administration.

Sargeant values the support others provided in his life. "Simple things are important, like encouraging others and seeing the good in them," he states. He is an encouragement to the UMC campus. His warm smile greets everyone, including students, and he exemplifies the friendly atmosphere evident here.

*(continued on page 3)*

**NWSA Reunion ... June 29-30, 2001**

**See page 15 for more information.**

# NWSA Alumni Association

## 2000-2001 Board of Directors

### TERM COMPLETED JUNE, 2001

#### Irene Pulkrabek Larson '44

Route 3, Box 105  
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119 Golf Terrace  
Crookston, MN 56716  
218-281-2807

#### David Tucker '61

1407 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
East Grand Forks, MN 56721  
218 773-1897

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RR 3 Box 91  
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218 281-3297

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423 Woodland, #107  
Crookston, MN 56716  
218-281-2838

#### Del Roelofs (Director)

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## The AGGIE - Vol. 20, No. 3 Spring 2001

The AGGIE is a publication of the Northwest School of Agriculture Alumni Association, published by the University of Minnesota, Crookston.

The AGGIE is published fall, winter, and spring by Institutional Relations. Send address changes and information for the newsletter to:

The AGGIE  
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Design: Patti Tiedemann, UMC Printing  
Photos: Media Resources, University Relations

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## Class Leader(s)

**1926** Alumni Office

**1931** Alumni Office

**1936** Betty Nisbet

RR 3 Box 298  
East Grand Forks MN 56721  
218 773-2263

**Myrtle Nisbet Peterson**

RR 3 Box 302  
East Grand Forks MN 56721  
218 773-9235

**1941** June Naplin Christensen

2309 Wildwood CT  
Burnsville MN 55306  
952 898-3335

**1946** Paul Proulx

109 E 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Crookston MN 56716  
218 281-5176

**1951** Allen Love

2022 10<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
East Grand Forks MN 56721  
218 773-1507

**Ardis Overgaard Searles**

RR 1 Box 246B  
Dalton MN 56324  
218 589-8189

**1956** Kathryn Clementson Mertz

609 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Austin MN 55912  
507 433-9124

**Marilyn Hovet Dehning**

PO Box 1227  
Lake Grove OR 97035  
503 635-8207

**1961** Kenneth Schuster

PO Box 223  
Argyle MN 56713  
218 437-6638 (W)

**Dave Tucker**

1407 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW  
East Grand Forks MN 56721  
218 773-1897

**1966** Bruce Stromstad

HC 1 Box 97  
Beltrami MN 56517  
218 926-5774

**Brian Bohnsack**

Route 1 Box 80  
Hillsboro ND 58045  
701 436-5158

## Chancellor Don Sargeant ... *continued*

Sargeant contends that the relationships the faculty and staff form with students are an invaluable part of being a student here. The interaction between faculty, staff, and students makes this campus special. "These bonds help to preserve the values and traditions of the past. The students today have the same feelings that NWSA students had," Sargeant says, "and that is what we want to preserve." He believes that personal skills and involvement with technology make a difference in the workforce. The activities, clubs, and campus organizations help enhance the student experience at UMC, and the daily use of laptop computers gives students the edge in technology.

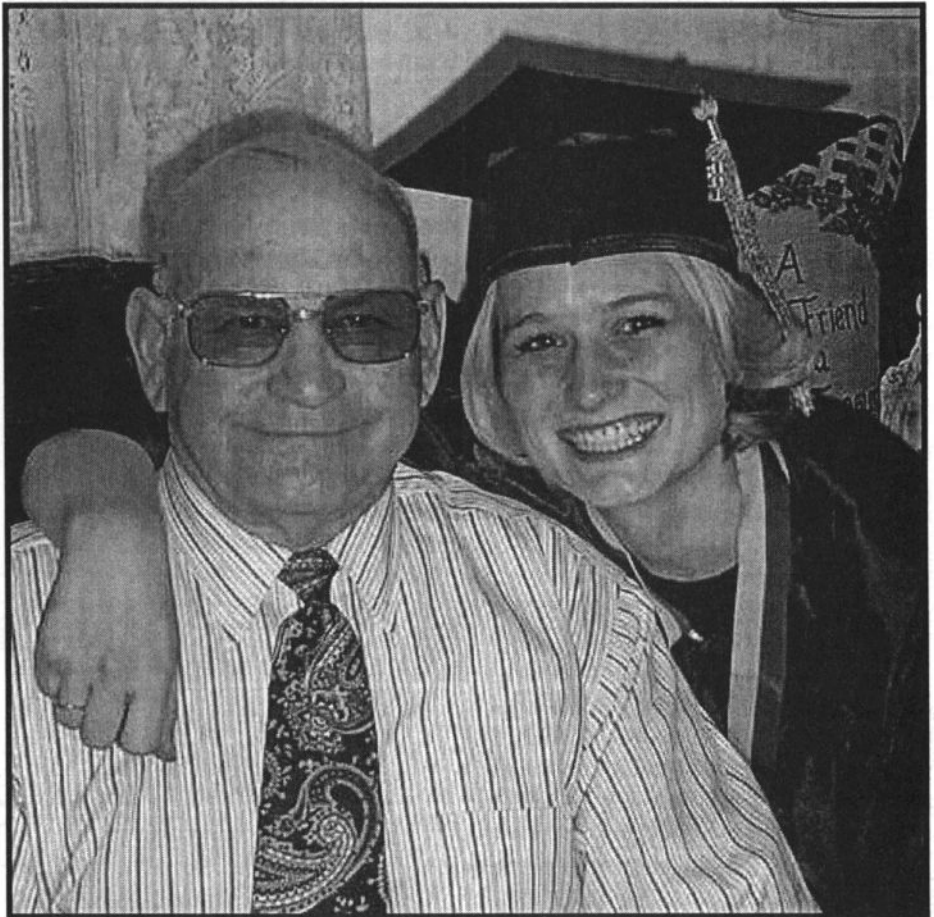
Mary Beth, his wife, works in physician recruitment for Riverview Hospital in Crookston. The recruitment process begins one to two years before a physician comes to Riverview and has its similarities to student recruitment at UMC. She is a wonderful hostess and brings these skills to everything she does. She knows many students by name and faithfully attends UMC activities. Sargeant relays his wife's sentiment, "The more you come (to UMC), the more students you know, and the more you want to come back."

Together, they are shaping the future of UMC and preparing it to launch successfully into this new century. That spirit was evident in the graduation this spring when nearly 150 diplomas were presented. The atmosphere was charged with excitement; it was a celebration of success. This success is measured in many ways, like the expression of appreciation for faculty, staff, and parents, pride in the school, and enthusiasm for the future. It can also be measured by respect, a respect for each other and the past, something Sargeant sees as intrinsic to a good education. The NWSA was the beginning of something wonderful. It was particularly evident at commencement, but you can experience it any day at

UMC just by being there. Those values are worth preserving and are the real foundation on which this campus was built and one on which it will continue.

For Russell Tollefson, seeing his granddaughter, Carrie, graduate from UMC was the continuation of a tradition. In the 57 years since his graduation, many

NWSA alumni have been back to see their children and grandchildren graduate from this school. It is a tribute to the vision of those who started NWSA and to those who carry that vision into the future, like Chancellor Don Sargeant whose leadership takes us forward into the new millennium.

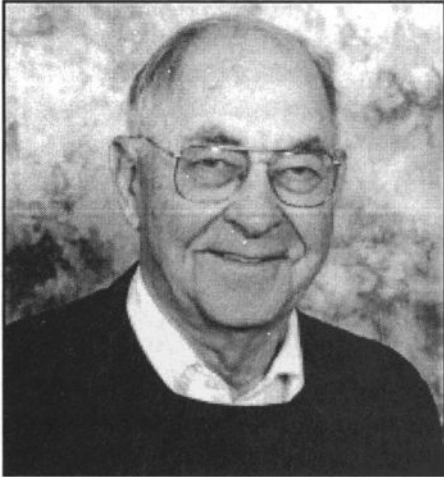


Russell Tollefson (NWSA '44) and his granddaughter Carrie Tollefson (UMC '01) are part of the NWSA/UMC legacy.

## Did You Know:

Annual Fund Drive  
provides dollars for the  
NWSA Heritage Fund Scholarships  
and NWSA Alumni Association's  
annual on-going operations.

# From the President



**Gerhard Ross**

The theme of this Aggie Newsletter is on the transition from an Agricultural High School, to a 2-year technological college, to a 4-year full academic curriculum. NWSA Alumni are a part of the past, and our role now is to pass the torch to a new generation.

In doing the phonathon, a number of NWSA Alumni commented that they enjoyed Dr. Charles Samuelson's memories of the NWSA. The theme of discipline and excellence inteaching comes through in his article. I was part of the transition from a high school to

the 2-year college. I taught soils the last year of NWSA and the first year of UMC. NWSA's reputation for discipline attracted a few of the more "energetic" students from other schools. Attendance at NWSA was probably not their idea. The 40 NWSA students that I had were a fun group, and with the assistance of Registrar E. N. Reiesgord, discipline was maintained.

I learned a lot from those kids. I had a contest to see who could grow the most barley in a milk carton. Aside from one student, who lived with his mother on a nearby farm, they were the sickest looking barley plants you could imagine. They had been sabotaged with everything from aftershave lotion to being dropped out of windows. I had an award for the best and the worst. The eight ball award was for the worst. I gave that to myself for being so dumb. In the next year, I had about 15 UMC college students in class, and they were serious about learning. Quite a change.

A few years later, I taught a class called "Agricultural Ethics." This introduced me to a world that has since become a common story in the newspapers. I am referring to the animal rightists and en-

vironmental groups. As someone else stated in a recent newspaper article, our urban cousins want a rural playground. This is my cynical side, but it reflects reality, and the UMC Campus is a reflection of society. Our NWSA educational emphasis was on production agriculture and home economics. Today, natural resources and hotel management are important parts of UMC curriculum. The emphasis in UMC agriculture instruction is technology. Along with this comes public concern for environmental impacts of agriculture. They don't want us to drain our potholes, destroy wildlife habitat, or pollute our streams and lakes, and now they fear messing with the "genes." Technology on farms and in the classroom is real, and UMC is being recognized nationwide and around the world for its "Laptop U" leadership.

On a closing note, the Centennial Park Project would like to tell this story of NWSA and UMC to every visitor on Campus. We invite you to be a part of it through your support. See page 14 for more details.

*Gerhard Ross*

## Congratulations to the Year 2001 TOP AGGIES

**Evangeline Anderson Myhre '46**

Warren, MN

**Ray K Johnson '46**

Cincinnati, OH

**Roger J Kasprick '51**

Collegetown, MN

**JoAnne Straus Carlson '61**

Brainerd, MN

# From the Chancellor



**Donald Sargeant**

Another academic year is complete. There were nearly 2000 in attendance as degrees were presented to 148 students at Commencement on May 5. It is great to see the number of graduates increase as well as the excitement

that goes with the fulfillment of a dream. The campus awards programs and year-end activities also add to joy of being on campus in the spring.

We are in the budget planning and staffing mode. The budget for next year will not be determined until early June after the close of the legislative session. We hope there is not too much change, but with Governor Ventura it is not business as usual for Minnesota. As for staffing, there will be new faculty in biology, information technology management, agriculture business and a new women's soccer coach. There are always a few more new faces as the year progresses. Construction projects underway this summer include a renovation and addition to Kiehle and expansion of the parking lot on the west side of the campus along with the usual refurbishing of some classrooms and offices.

The campus has received an unusual amount of recognition this spring. Articles featuring UMC were in the Wall Street Journal, On-line Learning and Converge magazines, and in regional newspapers on a regular basis. This is coverage that you cannot buy and is written as they see it. The outcome, though, is that UMC is becoming better known for quality technical baccalaureate programs. As a result we continue to see an increase in student applications each year. At this time it looks like the number of new freshmen and the total campus enrollment will be up for the fourth year in row. We are reaching out and have received increased student interest from the Twin Cities and other states and countries.

We look forward to seeing you at the NWSA alumni reunion on June 30.

*Donald Sargeant*

## Still Time to Enroll in the Senior Computer Workshop

When making plans to attend the NWSA reunion in June, schedule a few extra days to participate in UMC workshops on computers and the Internet. UMC has been hosting successful introductory computer training for seniors across the country, and is now scheduling training convenient to your reunion. Make your return to UMC a learning experience!

UMC will offer three workshop options. Come for a full week of beginning computing topics, or choose from two 2-day workshops. The week-long training is June 25-29. The two-day workshops are June 28-29. Each workshop includes six hours of hands-on classroom training on UMC's famous laptops with experienced, personable instructors.

Workshop topics and activities are designed for people with no experience.



They are paced to help you learn. Several classroom assistants will provide individual attention, and handouts and materials will help you review and expand your classroom experience.

Workshop attendees may participate as a commuter or reside on campus in UMC's comfortable West Side Apartments. The apartments are air-conditioned, two-bedroom suites with a kitch-

ette and living room. Each bedroom has two twin beds and a bath. The apartments also have connections for you to plug in your laptop anytime outside of class. Meals are provided.

Pricing is based on commuter or resident status. Pricing includes three meals each day.

### **Five-day workshop**

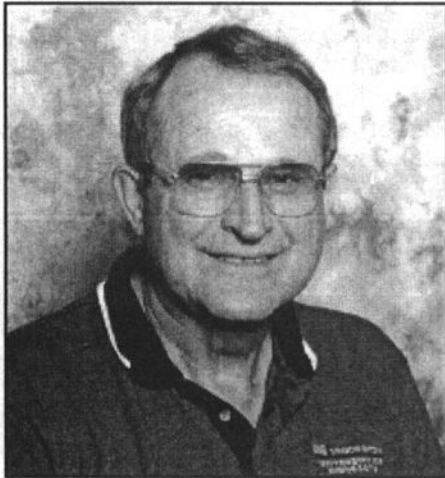
<u>Resident</u>	<u>Commuter</u>
\$499	\$349

### **Two-day workshop**

<u>Resident</u>	<u>Commuter</u>
\$199	\$139

Contact UMC's Center for Adult Learning for more information about the Summer Senior Computing Workshop or to reserve your classroom seat. Call us at 218-281-8681 or email Hilary Bertsch at [hbertsch@mail.crk.umn.edu](mailto:hbertsch@mail.crk.umn.edu).

# From the Director of Development



**Del Roelofs**

Can you believe it's time for another reunion? It seems we were just making plans for the Texas Social, and now we're concluding yet another year.

Speaking of the Texas Social we had a great time. At least Judy and I did, and I think all those in attendance shared

the same reaction. (Photos were printed last issue.) Next year we plan to be in Mesa, Arizona, again. Since I first began at UMC, now going on five years ago, we have been alternating between McAllen and Mesa. We have discussed including one or more of the other snowbirds states into the winter schedule. If any of you who winter in one of the other states are interested, we could certainly consider this possibility in the future. So if there are enough NWSA graduates interested in holding a winter NWSA Social in your area, please let me know and we'll try to work something out.

This has been a good year here on the UMC campus. UMC is coming of age. This fact is manifested in many ways. Like its predecessors NWSA and the University of Minnesota Technical College, UMC is meeting the critical needs of its students, the state, the region and yes, even the nation. Many people

are responsible and should be given credit for UMC's accomplishments, its continuous improvement, and its growing reputation. We salute all of these people and thank them for their many contributions and continuing support.

Having said that, we've chosen to single out one person in this issue of the Aggie who has been most instrumental in building the UMC we can all be proud of today. That person is our chancellor and you can read more about him in this issue's feature article on the front page. Suffice it to say Chancellor Sargeant, your vision, hard work, and steadfast and tireless leadership have not gone unnoticed. The results are evident. You've conducted yourself admirably and built on the foundation laid by your predecessors.

## 2000-2001 Annual Fund Drive

On behalf of the NWSA Alumni Association, the Board of Directors would like to say THANK YOU to the following volunteer board members for their willingness to help with the 2000 Fund Drive.

Arlone Thoreson Cymbaluk '47  
Wilford Dostal '48  
Irene Pulkrabek Larson '44  
Gerhard Ross '45  
David Tucker '61

As a special part of the Fund Drive this year, we had a number of UMC students involved in making calls. Several of these students were NWSA scholarship recipients and enjoyed having contact with so many of you. It is also a way to help students recognize the legacy of NWSA as they visit with alumni.

Steven Brandt, Kimball, MN  
Isaac Dallager, Esko, MN  
Lisa Detloff, Bertha, MN  
Cheryl Isder, Little Falls, MN  
Matt McBlair, Colville, WA  
Shane Roers, Fargo, ND  
Rebekah Stortroen, Climax, MN  
Carrie Tollefson, Crookston, MN  
Megan Tollefson, Crookston, MN  
Megan Ulrich, Bagley, MN

Their calls to each of you, and your generous support, will proudly continue the "Aggie Spirit" for 2001-2002. To date, we have received \$12,265 with the final request being mailed the second week of May. If you did not have a chance to send your gift, I would encourage you to do so today.

*Del Roelofs, Director*

## Have We Heard From You Lately?

Let us know any information or news you'd like to share. Photos are welcome. Please include year of graduation.

### Via US Mail:

NWSA Alumni Association  
University of Minnesota,  
Crookston

2900 University Avenue,  
Crookston, MN 56716

or

Email: [ardis@mail.crk.umn.edu](mailto:ardis@mail.crk.umn.edu)  
or Phone: 1-800-862-6466 ext. 8437.

# A Legacy of Memories of the Northwest School of Agriculture, Part II

By Dr. Charles R. Samuelson, Senior Class of 1943, Advanced Class of 1944

**Editor's note:** This is part two of two of an article by Dr. Samuelson. Part I was printed in last issue of the Aggie.

I was editor of the school paper, *The Aggie Rouser*, for one term, and I lettered in debate and livestock judging. I participated in wrestling, swimming, and school yearbook, speech contests, speech choir, took piano and voice lessons, and attended sporting events, social events, and plays. I worked in the dairy barn for the school during my senior year and helped to milk the cows at four o'clock in the morning for the magnificent sum of 35 cents an hour. Even though the wage would be considered to be very low today, I made enough money the fall quarter of my senior year to pay all my school expenses and had twelve dollars left over! I think I always went to steep in algebra class that year for some reason.

We had all-school dances and proms like every other school. Couples would parade around the campus circle in the evening until 7 p.m. when they had to return to their respective dorms. Some couples did their strolling early in the morning before breakfast in order to get more time with each other.

There was a large heating tunnel that carried the steam pipes from building to building. Lots of stories, both true and apocryphal, were told about various antics in the tunnel. The more adventurous boys would follow the tunnel to the girls' dorm and onto the swimming pool after hours. (Once in a while someone would get caught and "campused.")

Some of the older students, both boys and girls, would sneak out of the dorm at night, walk the railroad tracks to Crookston, see a movie, walk back, and sneak back into the dorm. Usually someone on the ground floor would open a window, or the student would go up the fire escape and get back into



**Junior-Senior Banquet**

the dorm with the aid of a friend on the inside. (Once in a while someone would be caught and campused as well.)

During World War II blackouts were held from time to time all over the United States so that every citizen would identify with the problems of war. I remember one night when a blackout was in progress, I was looking towards the city of Crookston from my third floor window in Senior Hall at about 11 p.m. The entire world was dark. There were no lights anywhere. After a while I noticed a light from time to time along the railroad tracks that connected Crookston to the Northwest School. It turned out to be a student walking the tracks back to school. The light appeared from time to time because he was smoking, and every time he puffed on his cigarette, it gave off enough light to be seen a mile or more away. Unknowingly, this student was aiding the enemy.

The Experiment Station, which was part of the University of Minnesota, raised much of the food, such as potatoes, vegetables, meat, and milk, that was consumed in the dining hall. The cooks lived on the third floor of the dining hall and were employed six days a week. Girl students were employed as waitress to bring the prepared food to the students' tables at mealtime. The dining hall was large enough to feed everyone at the same time. There were two tables for the unmarried faculty - the married faculty lived on Faculty Row, a row of houses located at the edge of the campus. Some faculty lived in nearby Crookston and commuted each day.

The school had an old bus which was driven by Andy Anderson for years and years. Andy and his bus made regular trips to Crookston and returned for ten

## Memories of the NWSA ...

*continued*

cents each way. Everyone on campus knew Andy. He also drove the bus when the team traveled out of town. It was Andy who drove the school car to St. Paul when the debate team, of which I was a member, was scheduled to debate in February of 1943. World War II was in progress, and there were severe restrictions on travel. However, this debate trip was permissible under the rules.

I remember we left the campus at Crookston at six in the morning and headed for St. Paul. The maximum highway speed allowed was 35 miles per hour. Hence, it was after 10 a.m. when we arrived in Detroit Lakes, a hundred miles away, where we stopped for breakfast. We did not reach St. Paul until after 9 p.m. that evening. I remember that it was a long trip.

I stayed in the dorm at the St. Paul campus. Gunhild Nesland, my debate partner, and I debated the next day. We were on the negative side. I remember the debate proposition was, "Resolved: that every effort should be made to achieve world government" (such as the United Nations). We returned to Crookston the following day still no faster than 35 miles per hour. What a long trip! (Incidentally, we won the debate.)

Many of the students went to church on Sunday either by bus to Crookston, or they attended church services on campus. The noon meal on Sunday was dress-up time. Everyone had dressed up to go to church. It was easy to tell who did not go to church—they were not wearing their Sunday best in the dining hall. Sunday afternoon was the cooks' time off, so the Sunday evening meal consisted of a box lunch that was given to each student as he or she left the dining hall after the noon meal. This box lunch consisted of sandwiches and an apple or banana. If you were not there for the noon meal on



*The 1943 Debate Team: (l to r): Gunhild Nesland, Jaroslav Kruta, Mrs. Pofahl, Charles Samuelson, Erwin Muzzy, and Glenn Holmquist.*

Sunday, you did not get a box lunch for later on.

*Senior Day* was an annual event held in March about three weeks before graduation. On that day the seniors would dress up and put on a program at convocation based upon a theme. I remember our theme was "By The Beautiful Sea." The seniors were the first to receive their Aggie, the school yearbook, that day as well. The next few weeks were spent getting classmates and teachers to write their names and, hopefully, a short message in your yearbook. I still have all four of my yearbooks with

all the messages just as written over 50 years ago. What a pleasure it is to read and reread what was in vogue so long ago!

As far as I know there are only two of my teachers still living. Dr. Robert Nyland, Minneapolis, botany, and Mr. Benjamin Bakkegard, English, in California. Our Class of '43 received notes for each of them in June, 1998, at our 55th reunion. Miss Edith Boistad, former NWSA librarian, lives in Crookston and is still active in school affairs.

*(continued)*



*Commencement exercises were held on March 26, 1943.*



## Memories of the NWSA . . .

*continued*

In conclusion, I must say that the Northwest School gave me the very best high school education a person could possibly have had. I had excellent teachers who prepared me well for the future. I attended a boarding school where I learned to take care of myself at an early age. Best of all, I have classmates that get together even after 55 years!

There is one negative, however, that I used to think about from time to time. We were absent from our family home during those formative years and did not get to know our parents very well during our teenage years. I always wondered about that. Did we lose something or did we gain something?

Well, having become a parent to three children who grew up in our home, I discovered that my children did not get to know us, their parents, very well, either. They were always on the go just like we were at that age. They spent lots and lots of time away from home, either at school, attending school activities, or being with their friends. (Just like we were when we were students at the Northwest School!) The young people of my day are much like the young people of today. So, it was not a negative after all! Clearly, we did not lose a thing by attending the Northwest School. In fact, we gained!

It was not until my parents were in their seventies and older that I had time to spend getting acquainted with them once again and asking them questions about the days gone by. As a young person, I wasn't interested in their youthful experiences. I was too busy doing my own thing, just like the young people of today. I suppose the same thing is happening to me right now. My children are busy, too. Maybe someday my children will have the time to ask me about the old days, too, and they will become the friends that we always wanted them to be.

When I went away to college, I found myself so much better prepared for higher education than my college classmates, who came from traditional high schools. I was already independent and a self-starter. I watched many of my college classmates who were 20 years of age or older go through the same maturation process that I had gone through at the Northwest School when I was 14 years old. (I couldn't help but laugh at them!)

I really knew very little about traditional high schools, so when I began my career as a high school biology teacher, I had to find out how high schools are

operated. For instance, since I had no traditional high school experience, I didn't even know what a study hall was until I began teaching and was assigned to monitor one. The biggest problem I had then was, how quiet should a study hall be? I had never been in one so how would I know? I thought the word 'quiet' meant silence. Lots of students complained, and as a result I found out after a long discussion with the principal, that a certain amount of noise was permissible. How different a high school was! I realized how lucky I was to have attended and graduated from the Northwest School at Crookston!



*Dr. Charles "Doc Sam" Samuelson and his wife Idella in a photo taken for their 45th wedding anniversary on April 6, 2001. The couple met in Thief River Falls in 1955 and have lived there since. Doc Sam, now retired, was a biology teacher at Northland Community College—one of the first four hired when the college was founded in 1965.*

***Editor's note: We have received many positive comments on Doc Samuelson's articles. We would like to encourage more Aggies to consider submitting their NWSA memories. If you would like to share your NWSA stories, submit them to Ardis Thompson, 205 Selvig Hall, UMC, 2900 University Avenue, Crookston, MN 56716.***

# Class Notes

## Lillian Bakken Lillemoe '28

Golden Valley, MN 55427

I am now living in an assisted living complex. I am 90 plus years old and in good health. I do have some arthritis and am walking with a walker due to a broken hip in 2000. It is quite boring here, but I read a lot and sleep a lot, so time flies. My six children are now living in six different states, only one in Minn. I see him often and the rest of them periodically. Had a big party in 2000 for my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday—lots of grandchildren, and great, great nieces and nephews.

## Ann Thoreson Anderson '29

Auburn, CA 95602

The AC will always have a special place in my heart. I would love to come to our 70<sup>th</sup> Reunion, but my first thought and duty is for my wonderful husband of 68 years, come this July. We are a very happy couple, love to dance, we even did a few steps at his 102nd birthday party. We have twin daughters who live near us, we have three grandchildren and two great grandchildren, a boy who will graduate from college and the girl will graduate from high school this spring. I keep in touch with four of my classmates, and also four sons and daughters of a classmate who has passed away (their mother was my roommate). We take one day at a time, and make no plans for too far ahead. Please greet any and all of my classmates and those that were there in '28,



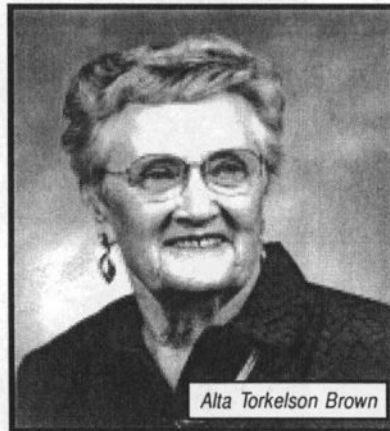
Ann Thoreson Anderson and her husband on his 102 birthday.

## Alta Torkelson Brown '36

Sun City West, AZ 85375

e-mail: [mrshi@aol.com](mailto:mrshi@aol.com)

No changes—just getting older! I keep active in my church, PEO and art projects, mainly china painting. I went to Germany last summer and studied and painted at the Meisseo Porcelain Factory for a week—a great experience. I've been alone for 17 years—live in a retirement community. My best wishes to all my old classmates and alumni. I am still hoping to get to the Reunion this year, but I have two grandsons who are getting married and it may change my plans. They do have priority!



Alta Torkelson Brown

## Alton T Knutson '41

Forest Lake, MN 55025

e-mail: [mknutso490@earthlink.net](mailto:mknutso490@earthlink.net) Retired in

1984 after 33 years as a Missionary in Japan. Since then served as Visitation Pastor at local church, Pastor at the UHURU Hyway Church in Nairobi Kenya and for eight years past or at a church for tourist at Mazatlan Mexico. In November visited Japan. Had the joy of preaching in Japanese again. Also spent one week in Hong Kong as a tourist. Still Chaplain of the Mountain Artillery WWII Veteran Association and the China Burma India Veterans Association. Have been blessed with good health of mind, body and soul. On June 17 enjoyed the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination. Thanks be to God for his loving care.



Alton Knutson (far right) with his wife (far left) and Japanese friends.

## Patty Durbahn Benson '37

Fargo, ND 58103

e-mail: [pattybenson@MSN.com](mailto:pattybenson@MSN.com)

I have lived in Fargo-Moorhead for the past 62 years. Arvid Benson and I were married in 1940. We had a furniture store in Moorhead for many years. Our son owns it now. Arvid traveled a bit buying shopping centers and apartment complexes. We still own the one in Baton Rouge, LA. We are actively managing it, so we go there about six times a year for a brief period. We like being near our family in Minnesota. In the summer we live at a lake only 35 miles from Moorhead. Our kids have cottages on the same lake so it is a busy, happy time for all of us. I look forward to hearing from some of my classmates.



Arvid and Patty (Durbahn) Benson

# Class Notes

## Kathryn Brandli Olson '41

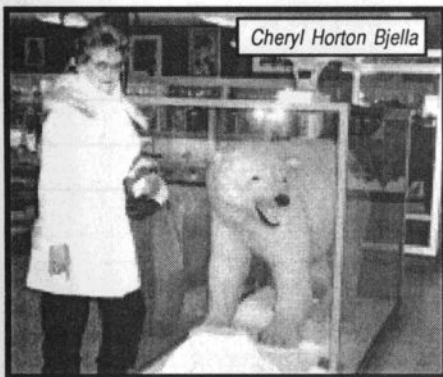
*Soldotna, AK 99669*  
e-mail: [ljolson@gci.net](mailto:ljolson@gci.net)

Leonard and Kathryn Olson recently received a Certificate of Appreciation from AARP for their volunteer work in their church and community as well as with AARP and the Retired Teachers Association. They both retired in 1983 and spent two years working in a Mission School in Brazil before returning to their home in Alaska. They have been instructors for AARP 55 alive/mature driving on the Kenai Peninsula for 14 years and have been happily working together for 53 years.

## Cheryl Horton Bjella '44

*Fremont, NB 68025*

I am retired in a senior citizen apartment – no worry about repairs, lawn mowing, etc. I work half-day as a care person. Enjoy my grandchildren and occasionally a trip "somewhere". Last Oct. drove to Bemidji, MN, for a lutefisk supper and all that goes with it.



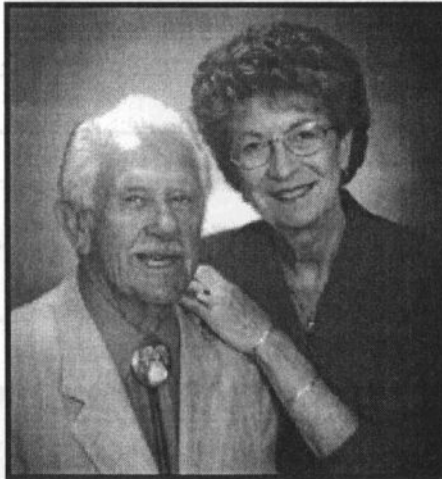
## Robert J Boucher '44

*Crookston, MN 56716*

Robert has always said that the NWSA was the best school, and he always felt that he had a good education. Robert entered the special care unit at Vila St. Vincent, Crookston on January 11, 2000, with Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. He still enjoys seeing old friends, as he lives in the past and is busy farming every day. His wife of 46 years and four of his five children and his seven grandchildren still live in Crookston.

## Forrest Mykleby '44

*Cedar Rapids, IA 52403*  
(corrected) e-mail:  
[frevmykleby320@webtv.net](mailto:frevmykleby320@webtv.net)



*Vincent and Lorie Wallenberg*

## Vincent A Wallenberg '44

*Phoenix, AZ 85022*  
e-mail: [vwallenberg@earthlink.net](mailto:vwallenberg@earthlink.net)

I retired in 1994 and love to travel, woodwork, and boating. Moved to Phoenix 30 years ago. Married to Lorie with three children, two boys and one girl. Celebrated 50 years of marriage last December.

## Chuck Omlid '58

*Pensacola, FL 32513*  
e-mail: [candd@pocketmail.com](mailto:candd@pocketmail.com)

Retired from US Navy and retired from second career with Northwest Airlines.

## Eddie Biber '61

*Omaha, NE 68154*  
e-mail: [eddiebiber@qwest.net](mailto:eddiebiber@qwest.net)

Retired three grandchildren. Enjoying life.

## Bonita Rotvold '62

*Hillsboro, ND 58045*  
(corrected) e-mail: [lotvold@rrv.net](mailto:lotvold@rrv.net)

## Claudia Deery Hanson '64

*Mission Hill, SD 57046*  
e-mail: [cmdeery@hotmail.com](mailto:cmdeery@hotmail.com)

Working full time as a pharmacy technician and two part-time jobs. Last summer I went to Norway and Sweden to meet and visit with relatives. Have four grandchildren. Enjoy reading, small woodworking projects, and spending time my grandchildren and travel. Would like to hear from any classmates!

## Harriet Lydick Kasprick '50

*Eden Prairie, MN 55347*

In the course of my genealogical searching of old newspapers I came upon this article from the January 13, 1906, edition of the Cass Lake Times newspaper. I thought it was interesting so decided to share it.

## Application Necessary

Owing to delay in the completion of the state school of agriculture building at Crookston, it will be impossible to open school before Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. This will give time only for a two or two and a half months term, and this notice is given for the purpose of allowing those who desire to attend to send in their application to Prof. Wm Robertson at Crookston, the head of the school. Such application should reach him not later than January 20<sup>th</sup> if possible. The expense to the students for board, lodging and tuition will be about \$15 per month and while it is realized that many have already got themselves located for this winter's school. Several applications have come in and those who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity should be prompt in sending in their application, and the first applications received will be accepted in their order, and those who cannot be accommodated will be notified. No formal application is needed. Simply state your age and post office address. Applications will be received by both girls and boys.

# Have we heard from you lately?

To submit an item for Class Notes just fill out this form and send it to: Ardis Thompson, 2900 University Ave., Crookston MN 56716 or E-mail: [ardis@mail.crk.umn.edu](mailto:ardis@mail.crk.umn.edu)

**Photos of you and/or your family are welcome!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
                    First                                      Middle Initial                                      Last                                      Maiden

Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_ or Attendance \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (            ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Can we post your E-mail address in the next issue of the Aggie? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Information/news that you wish to share with your NWSA classmates and friends. (New job, retirement, family achievements, hobbies, etc.) **PLEASE SEND A PHOTO!**

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NWSA Alumni Association  
University of Minnesota, Crookston  
2900 University Avenue  
Crookston, MN 56716-5001

Place  
34¢  
Stamp  
Here

NWSA Alumni Association  
University of Minnesota, Crookston  
2900 University Avenue  
Crookston, MN 56716-5001

## *In Memory Of . . .*

NWSA Alumni who are no longer with us. Through out their lifetime, these individuals developed a rich heritage, traveled many pathways, and encountered numerous experiences. Their memory will remain as part of the Northwest School of Agriculture.



**Estelle L. Philipp Haughorn '31**

Las Vegas, NV  
February 19, 2000

**Selma Evenson Hamre '25**

Erskine, MN  
March 4, 2001

**Arden P Hanson '36**

Sun City, CA  
February 9, 2000

**Marville Magnusson '44**

Argyle MN  
March 14, 2001

**Leopold "Paul" F Vaudrin '38**

Crookston, MN  
March 31, 2001

**Leland Roi '43**

Red Lake Falls, MN  
April 6, 2001

**Duane (Dewey) Kittelson**

St Paul, MN  
March 23, 2001

**Violet Lindholm Pready '43**

Dublin, CA  
February 14, 2001

**Theodore Skjerping**

Newfolden, MN  
March 28, 2001

**Christine Otness**

Bagley, MN  
April 14, 2001

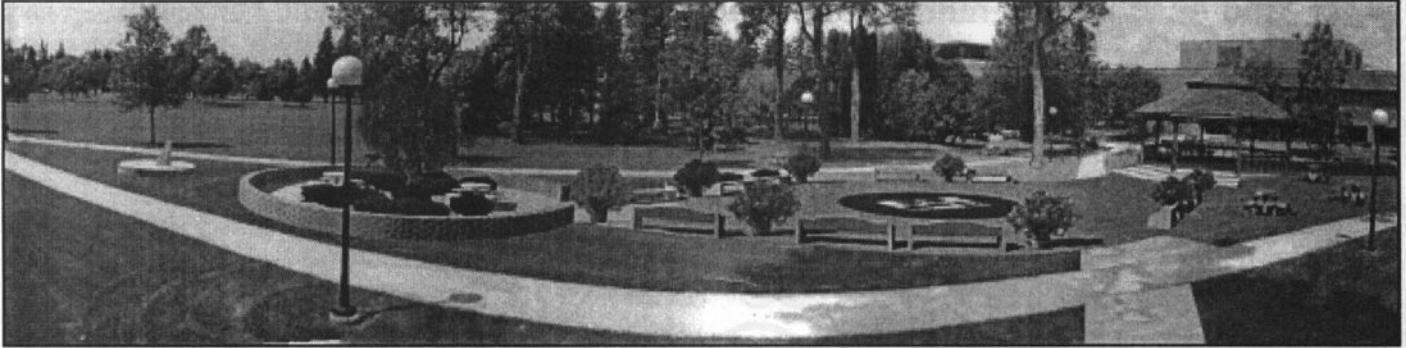
**Alice Farder**

**(dining services '00-'83)**

Erskine, MN  
April 17, 2001



# Become a Sponsor of the Centennial Park Project



Proposed Centennial Park, photo renderings are courtesy of Dick Widseth, Widseth Smith Nolting.

As we celebrate the dedication of the Harris A. Peterson Gazebo, we wish to thank you for your support. The Gazebo is the initial piece of the Centennial Park Project. Plans are to develop the Centennial Park which will encompass a NWSA Memorial Garden to the north and east of the Gazebo and a Centennial Plaza area to the south. This project will provide a "Town Square" atmosphere to this beautiful area of our Campus.

**Where:** On the northeast corner of the Campus Mall adjacent to the Sunken Gardens. This site has easy access to parking, Bede Hall Ballroom and Sahlstrom Conference Center which can provide catering and access to restrooms for special events. This site will provide a living historical link between the Northwest School of Agriculture and UMC.

**Why:** This facility will accentuate a "Spirit of Community" providing a meeting place while taking advantage of the beautiful surroundings that make our campus a special place. The Gazebo and surrounding area can provide a place to host reunions, weddings, concerts, talent shows and many other special events.

Construction of the Gazebo was made possible thanks to a generous donation by NWSA Alum Harris A. Peterson ('42). Harris is the the owner and CEO of Minn-Dak Growers, Ltd., a world-wide supplier of mustard, buckwheat, and confection sunflower ingredients to the food industry. Harris says, "The NWSA was an important part of my life. My fellow classmates and I were like family, and I think we all had a tremendous advantage in realizing our dreams by attending the Northwest School of Agriculture."



Harris A. Peterson

We wish to thank the UMC Facilities Management personnel for their hard work and dedication that made this project a reality: Kent Freberg; Paul Schultz; Bernie Elseth; Jerry Rude; Greg Benoit; Michelle Holman; Neil Vraa; Jared Robinson; Ted Paul; and Denny Kuzel.

## I would like to support the Centennial Park Project

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to the support the NWSA Centennial Park Project. My/our commitment will be made as follows:

With the enclosed sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please make your check payable to Centennial Park Project

With a pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be paid as follows: \_\_\_\_\_ contributions commencing on \_\_\_\_\_ and completed on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

Please send your contribution to:

**NWSA Alumni Association, 2900 University Ave., Crookston, MN 56716-5001**

# NWSA Reunion ... 2001

June 29-30  
2001



## Honored Classes:

**1926, 1931, 1936, 1941,  
1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966**



### **Friday, June 29, 2001**

- 9:30 a.m. Golf Scramble, Minakwa Country Club
- 7:00 p.m. Social, Northland Inn  
Free hors d'oeuvres, cash bar

### **Saturday, June 30, 2001**

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 10:00 a.m. Campus Tours
- 11:00 a.m. Campus Tours
- 11:30 a.m. Pig Roast Luncheon
- 1:30 p.m. Class Meetings
- 3:30 p.m. Class Pictures
- 5:30 p.m. Banquet
- 8:30 p.m. Barbershop Singers



Make your reservations NOW by calling the following motels in Crookston: AmericInn 281-7800; Northland Inn 281-5210; Country Club 281-1607; Golf Terrace 281-2626. A block of rooms at Northland Inn have been reserved so make sure you indicate the NWSA Reunion.

The NWSA Board has been planning special activities for your enjoyment. Please make plans now to attend your Reunion.

# **Congratulations To The Top Aggies for 2001**

★ **Evangeline Anderson Myhre '46** ★

Warren, MN

★ **Ray K Johnson '46** ★

Cincinnati, OH

★ **Roger J Kasprick '51** ★

Collegeville, MN

★ **JoAnne Straus Carlson '61** ★

Brainerd, MN

NWSA Alumni Association  
University of Minnesota, Crookston  
2900 University Avenue  
Crookston, MN 56716-5001

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