



Aggie

Alumni Publication of the Northwest School of Agriculture

Spring 2006

Volume 24

Number 2



Special Donor Issue



From the Director of Development **Corby Kemmer**

Greetings! As the new Director of Development and Alumni Relations at the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) I am pleased to be living in Crookston and working at UMC. I come to UMC at a very special time, the Centennial year and Chancellor Casey's Inauguration! My family and I have been warmly welcomed and have met "salt of the earth" people.

As a "history buff" it has been enjoyable to learn of the interesting history of the Northwest School of Agriculture and its alumni. My appreciation for you and your history was a focal point in my decision of coming to UMC.

My third day on the job I had the privilege to meet with Gerhard Ross regarding the NWSA, what an honor for me! As alumni, you are our greatest asset and have paved the path for the success we've become today and for the successes tomorrow. The history and memory of the Northwest School of Agriculture and its alumni will **never** be forgotten.

My sincere thank you for your continued support of UMC and please don't hesitate to contact me or stop by my office, my door is always open and I look forward to meeting and visiting with more and more of you.

"Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation." – President John F. Kennedy

Please remember UMC in your giving.

— Corby Kemmer



Corby Kemmer
Director of Development
with Minnesota Governor
Tim Pawlenty

Public Comment Sought on University of Minnesota, Crookston

The University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC), is seeking comment from the public about the University in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The University will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit April 24-26, 2006, by a team representing the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The University of Minnesota, Crookston, has been accredited by the Commission since 1964. The team will review the institutions ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the University:

Public Comment on University of Minnesota, Crookston
Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60602

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed; comments cannot be treated as confidential. **All comments must be received by March 23, 2006.**

Gerhard Ross

From the Alumni President

Dear NWSA Alumni,

It has been a while since I wrote one of these President's letters.

Former President Ray Dusek set a good example in his letters and I hope we continue to inform you as Ray did. Some things have changed at UMC as administrations change. They reflect the changes that are going on in our society and how that is changing the University's approach to education. The Alumni Board got caught up in some of this change. One change that occurred was the celebration of the 100th Anniversary. It is being celebrated as a whole year, basically from

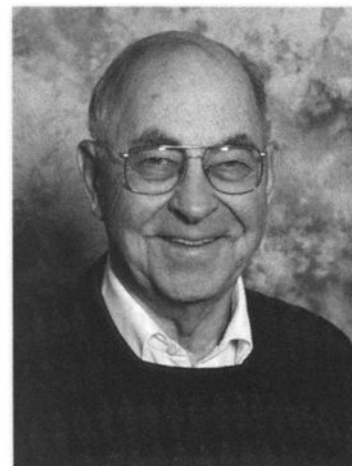
June 2005 to 2006. The Centennial Park Project Memorial Wall continues to make progress. A set of plans, signed by a certified architect, has been forwarded for approval. Hopefully, footings can be poured in plenty of time for the wall to be built and plantings established by the time of our reunion, the last weekend in June. There was some talk of relocating the wall to an area around the flag pole, but the present plan is to put it in the sunken garden, as was the original plan.

As you probably know, Bede Hall was razed, and in its place is the new Student Center. It is truly

a remarkable building, and I'm sure, greatly appreciated by the students. If you attend this summer's reunion on June 23 and 24, it will be a treat for you to see.

I had the privilege of meeting our new development director, Mr. Corby Kemmer. We certainly welcome Corby to his new duties. Liz, Rose, Sue and Dr. Del are bringing him up to speed on where things are at. Corby grew up around Mayville, ND, so he already is an old salt for our area. I hope you get to meet him, if not sooner, at this summer's reunion.

If you haven't been to UMC for awhile, you



would be pleased if you saw it again. It is still one of the more pleasant spots in this world. See you this summer!

Sincerely yours,
Gerhard Ross
NWSA Alumni President

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I/we would like to support the Herschel Lysaker Endowment Fund. My/our commitment will be made as follows:

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Account number _____ Expires _____

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Signature _____

Please send your contribution to: Office of Development, 2900 University Ave., Crookston, MN 56716-5001

Alumni Spotlight

Mary Randall Norgart

Mary was a member of the advanced class of 1950. She enjoyed everyday life on campus, meeting people all over the Crookston area. She especially enjoyed babysitting Herschel Lysaker's three boys. Mary's mother, Mable, also went to the NWSA and Miss Bede, an instructor for Mary's mother, kept calling **Mary Mabel.**

After graduation Mary attended college in Bemidji and upon graduation taught at Clearbook



Mary liked golfing and was a member of the Grand Forks Country Club for many years.

and Lake Bronson, Minnesota. In January 1953, she married Dick Norgart from Grafton, North Dakota and after living in Grafton for a short time, they moved to Hallock, Minnesota where they became the first partners in the H.E. Everson Company Auto Parts Stores. Mary taught at Lake Bronson for a year and two of their children, Rick and Steven, were born in Hallock.

In 1958 they moved to Crookston, Minnesota where they started another H.E. Everson Company Auto Parts Store and Mary did substitute teaching.

Mary was responsible for starting the first day-care center in Crookston for mentally handicapped children in Polk County and was the first director in 1964 at Washington School.

Three children were born in Crookston; Michael, Randy, and Paul, making now five boys in a row.

In 1965 they moved to the H.E. Everson Company's Home Office at Grafton, where her husband, Dick, headed up the H.E. Everson Company stores and became president of the company.

50 Years of Service to Mentally Handicapped and Physically Handicapped Citizens

Mary, again in Grafton, worked with the handicapped and taught at the Grafton State School as a substitute teacher for three years. She was very active in church at Hallock, Crookston, and Grafton. Mary was president of the Women's Church Association, taught Sunday School, and she started a newcomers club for ladies moving to town.

A highlight while in Grafton was the adoption of a 13-month-old daughter, a special child from Children's Village in Fargo, North Dakota.

With the Everson Company growing, they again moved their general offices to Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Mary was always active, wanting to give to her community, was Cub Scout Leader for each one of her five boys, and taught Sunday School for many years. Mary loved building and remodeling homes. She and her husband acquired several apartment buildings. With Dick being busy in his business, the management, etc. fell on Mary which she handled very

readily. When a friend of theirs was developing a golf course in Warroad, Minnesota, she decided she would like to build some cottages on the fairways and that she did, acquiring several lots. She spent time there in the summer months (two years) with the children and Dick coming up on weekends and built several cottages besides investing with her husband in a new marina at Warroad Estates.

Mary was very athletic and enjoyed participating and following the boys' sports, and enjoyed water skiing and boating at their Maple Lake cottage when time permitted.

She liked golfing and was a member of Grand Forks Country Club for many years, serving as president of the Ladies' Group and on the Country Club board of directors.

When the Grand Forks Presbyterian Church needed better facilities for serving food, etc., she became co-chairman of a very ambitious undertaking to refurbish the lower area into a fine dining area. She was also very active in school P.T.A. She served in many capacities; Deacon and Elder of the Presbyterian

"Mary and Dick built several cottages in a new marina at Warroad Estates."

Church, Director of Listen Drop-In Center of Grand Forks for Handicapped Citizens, organized and was the director of the Presbyterian Day Care Center.

Her energy over the years has been unbelievable. Anything she could do to better the community, etc., she would give her all, and after adopting daughter Susan, a lot of energy went into that area.

Mary and Dick bought a home in Florida, but for several years could not spend much time there. In 1985 Mary started spending most of the winters there, and Dick commuted back and forth from Naples, Florida.

In Naples, Susan went to special school in the winter and here again Mary spent much time with handicapped people. In Collier County Florida she was recognized by the Collier County Association for Mental and Handicapped Citizens for her tireless efforts and dedication as President of Collier County Association.

In 1990 Mary and Dick were grieved by the loss of their son Steven. He was 32 years old. Steven had one son.

Mary and Dick have seven grandchildren. Son Richard D. Jr. lives in Tampa, Florida with his wife, Luda, and has one son. Son Michael Norgart lives in Pleasanton, California. Randall Norgart with wife, Stacy, lives in Portland, Oregon and have a daughter and a son. Son Paul Norgart and his wife, Denise, have three daughters and live in Oregon City, Oregon. Daughter Susan lives at home with Mary and Dick.

All of Mary's children have done well and Mary and Dick could not be more proud of them.

Mary keeps busy golf-



ing and playing bridge, summer and winter. She is chairman of the "Run for the Cure" (breast cancer drive) in King City Oregon each year where they now spend their summers.

In 1997 Mary was diagnosed with breast cancer which had also entered her glands. She fought that battle bravely with lots of chemo and radiation, and after eight years has a clean bill of health. Two years ago she had bad knees but she wasn't going to be laid up for each one. She had them both done at once. Six weeks later she played golf.

Mary's energy and her desire and willingness to give to the community, church and others have been great. In February she attended a social for the NWSA in Mesa, Arizona.

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Alumni Spotlight

Elmer Holland

When it is time to do an interview for one of our alumni publications, there are several ways to accomplish it, but often times it requires a phone call. When it was time to interview an alumna from the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC), I made the call and when the woman who talked to me said she did not know what the *Torch* was and was unsure what UMC stood for, I apologized for dialing the wrong

number. Before we hung up, she asked me to tell me what UMC stood for, as it sounded familiar. When I did, we discovered the reason why...

My call was answered by Betty Fuller, who explained, "My father went to school in Crookston a long, long time ago. In fact, we still have his yearbook." That yearbook was an Aggie and Betty is the daughter of 1919 Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) graduate, Elmer Holland. We visited for several minutes about her dad and the Northwest School. She gave me her address and I looked through the old *Northwest Monthly* newsletters for any other information on Elmer and was delighted to find some!

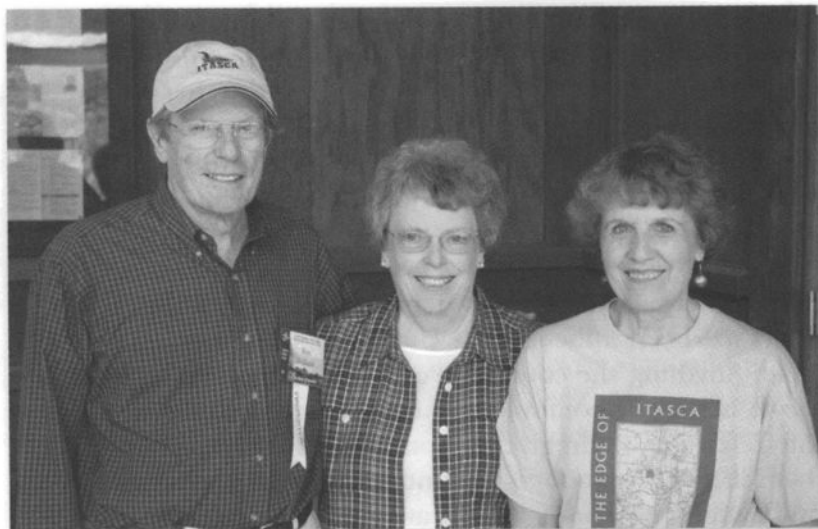
The April/May 1919 issue of the *Northwest Monthly* included this part of Elmer's senior thesis on community life, "It should therefore be the duty of every student of the Northwest School of Agriculture to take an

active part in all community affairs in order to help the people in their home surroundings build up a better community life." He did indeed believe what he wrote in that thesis. *The Northwest Monthly* reported it this way, "Elmer Holland is taking an active part in the affairs of his community, and the people have shown their appreciation and confidence in his abilities by electing him president of the farmer's club. Elmer's home farm is being improved with a big new barn and new granary."

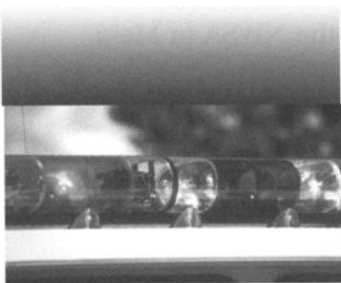
I sent a copy of those issues of the *Northwest Monthly* to Betty. I enjoyed visiting with her so much, and the whole thing took place because

I dialed the wrong number! Some time after I sent the information, I received an e-mail from Betty's brother, Ren Holland. He graciously told me more about his father and his life. Below is his letter, I think you will enjoy reading what he has to say:

While we have not met, I felt that I must contact you to express my thanks for sharing the information on our father, Elmer Holland, in the 1918, 1919, and 1937 NORTHWEST MONTHLY. I'm not sure how you contacted my sister Betty Fuller. She told me about a phone contact by accident. It is interesting that I had earlier found some of the information posted on the Internet. I had wondered—how on earth



Ren Holland, his sister, Betty Fuller, and his wife, Ida Mae at a book signing at Itasca State Park during the dedication of the Mary Gibbs Mississippi Headwaters Center in the fall of 2005.



"Dad (Elmer) became a policeman for seven years in Chicago during the wild days when gangsters ruled."

— Ren Holland

It is a small world after all!

did part of my Dad's thesis end up there? I assume now, that it was part of something that you must have entered. To find even more information about his early schooling is quite a surprise! We still have an Aggie yearbook of 1918. We are lucky that it survived these many years, especially when followed by six children (first 1921, last 1950).

Also surviving was a commencement program for 1919 (Dad had a special part in it) and another from

1921. He was in the band and also on the basketball squad.

The 1918 flu epidemic must have been devastating to many families. I recall Dad telling me about his roommate who died of the flu. His name was Sharpie.

I wish I would have had more time to know my Dad. He was killed in 1960 while hunting in Alaska. I was 23 at the time. There are many questions that I would ask him now. We always think we will have time to

ask questions.

His first wife died about 1928 leaving him with three children. He married my mother in 1930 and had three more children. All but one of the six are living—oldest is 82. Youngest is 55. I am 68. Our mother is 96.

After starting in agriculture at NWSA, Dad finished in Business College in Crookston. Later, he was a policeman for seven years in Chicago during the wild days when gangsters ruled. In the 1940s, he had a

"Mother had no telephone and no car. She later said it was 42 degrees below zero when she started labor. After walking one and one-half miles for help, my brother found a neighbor with a truck that would start."

— Ren Holland



Elmer willed his athletic pep to Arthur Anderson in the 1919 yearbook. Here he is photographed with the 1919 basketball team and is standing on the right side of the team.

small resort near Itasca State Park.

It was interesting to read (in the information that you sent), that Dad had revisited Crookston on February 4, 1937. I was born only 11 days prior to that visit! On January 23, he had been visiting his mother's farm at Shelly, along with two of his children. He left his pregnant wife, my fifteen month old sister, Betty, and my fifteen year old half-brother Raymond, at home near Itasca Park. He thought he would return before I was delivered. Of course, bad weather would arrive, and he was stranded at Shelly. To make things worse, I decided to enter this world. Mother had no telephone and no car.

Alumni Spotlight

Elmer Holland

She later said it was 42 degrees below zero when she started labor. After walking one and one-half miles for help, my brother found a neighbor with a truck that would start. He (the neighbor) drove Mother to Park Rapids, fifteen miles away, where I was born.

I recently looked up the temperature for the winter of 1937. At Crookston, it was 36 below zero on January 22. It was the coldest day registered in 1937!

I wrote a book called *THE EDGE OF ITASCA* which was published last July. It

"The 1918 flu epidemic must have been devastating to many families. I recall Dad telling me about his roommate who died of the flu. His name was Sharpie."

— Ren Holland

tells of the early persons associated with Itasca Park and the source of the Mississippi. Other topics include homesteaders, early logging railroads, the CCC, early White Earth timber, lake names, and rural schools. It also includes many references to Elmer Holland and life in the 1940s.

Thanks again for the information sent to my sister Betty. Your interest in ordinary people of long ago strikes a common note with my writing on local history. Of course history is always more interesting when you can find relatives connected to it, as you have shown.

—Ren Holland

Ren and I have had other correspondence since then. Elmer was listed in the commencement pamphlet as "Presiding" at the School Program. It was held in the Auditorium in the evening.

When the Hollands moved their mother to a care facility this spring,



A 1919 graduate, Elmer Holland was a very active student and a member of the Lincoln Debating Society, which won the 1918 inter-society debate. They debated the affirmative side of the question: "Resolved, that the government of the United States should adopt a policy of permanently regulating the price of food products."

they found several documents that she had kept from Elmer's schooling. Included was the Northwest School's "Honorable Testimonial" signed by M.L. Burton (President), R.W. Thatcher (Head of Agriculture Dept.), and C. G. Selvig (Superintendent).

Elmer was interested in learning. The family has a 1910 Perfect Attendance Certificate

from Norman County District 21 and a 1912 certificate for having read ten books from the Norman County Public School Library.

It is a small world and a wrong number can put you in touch with someone you never would have had the opportunity to meet. Alumni are everywhere, you might talk to one today, and you may not even know it! I would like to thank Betty for asking me what UMC stood for and then taking the time to visit. It is hard to believe what transpired from my mistake. I am happy to have made the Holland family's acquaintance and to share a little about the history of one of our alumni.

Perhaps you are wondering who I was calling that day. I was trying to reach Jamie Pulkrabek, a 2005 graduate of UMC and granddaughter of NWSA alumnus Jim Pulkrabek '52. You see, alumni are everywhere, and the world is small, a fact that helped turn a wrong number into a right one and remind me that there is a surprise to discover around every corner!

The reunion fifty years ago.

Remember when?

Excerpted from the *Northwest Monthly* April/May issue from 1956

Alumni Reunion and Golden Anniversary Program to be Held June 30

A call to all graduates of the Northwest School is extended by Charles Holmquist of Beltrami, 52, president of the Northwest School Alumni Association, to assemble for class reunions at the Alumni Reunion on Saturday, June 30, at the Northwest School.

This reunion day has some very special features this year. The Golden Anniversary will be celebrated at which time the alumni has planned to present the Northwest School with a new electric organ for the auditorium.

The committee is planning a surprise feature recognizing the forty-five years of service Superintendent T. M. McCall has given to the Northwest School and Experiment Station. You will have a chance to meet the new superintendent and his family. A large and enthusiastic alumni general arrangements committee, headed by Paul Engelstad of Thief River Falls, '16, has been working on arrangements for the 1956 reunion. At a recent meeting of this committee, it was decided to ask all alumni to contribute to the organ fund so the organ can be installed and presented at this Golden Anniversary reunion.

The organ fund as of today has \$1,285, which is not enough. The committee needs another \$1,200 to

make these plans a reality. Time is short-if you will use the form on the back page of this issue of the NEWS, you can make the committee's dream come true by mailing in your contribution to the alumni organ fund by June 11. You will need to act fast as the committee needs a few days to arrange for the organ. The afternoon program will start at 2 o'clock and will consist of talks by Dean T. H. Fenske, Regent and Alumnus Herman F. Skyberg, and Superintendent-elect B. E. Youngquist. Our retiring superintendent, T. M. McCall, will sketch through his years at the school. Appropriate music is being planned. Prizes will be presented at the afternoon program to the oldest alumnus present, to the alumnus coming the longest distance, and to the most recently married couple. Certain brief business matters will be introduced by the Alumni Association president. There will be a dance in the evening.

Your committee is making very special plans. You can do much to show your appreciation for the long and faithful service of Superintendent and Mrs. T. M. McCall by planning to be present on the Northwest School Golden Anniversary Alumni Reunion on June 30.

Note: One year later in 1957, the Northwest School of Agriculture would announce the retirement of Miss Retta Bede.

Be a part of the AGGIE! Submit your news for Class Notes!

**Don't forget
a photo!**

Name (please include your maiden name) _____

Year of Graduation/Attendance _____ Phone _____ Email _____

May we publish your email address? Yes _____ No _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip) _____

News you wish to share (please attached a sheet of paper if necessary) _____

Send to: Rose Ulseth, 2900 University Ave., Crookston, MN 56716 or Email: rulseth@umn.edu

Flashback

Yearbooks document our lives.

A yearbook is a priceless possession. Through its pages, we have the opportunity to relive the days of our youth, and we can linger over the lessons on history and popular culture. We become time travelers and the Northwest School of Agriculture's (NWSA) *Aggie* yearbooks are a wonderful trip through the history of the campus.

In 1923, brothers, Jesse and Selmer Anderson of Erie, MN graduated from

the Northwest School. Both boys were in the Agrarian Debating Society. The five literary societies at the NWSA met every two weeks for programs consisting of debates, speeches, readings, and orations. The men's societies competed with each other in preliminary debates while the girl's societies were composed of those interested in the problems related to all phases of home life. Girls did not debate, but rather, they discussed topics related to home economics and the objectives were to promote a spirit of fellowship and progressiveness among students.

The Northwest School offered students in the early twenties many different opportunities. Selmer Anderson, for example, was a part of the Boy's Glee Club. The senior class of 1923 won the silver cup that year when they competed with freshmen and juniors in singing. Superintendent C. G. Selvig presented them with the silver cup. That annual music con-

test began in 1917 and was held just before Christmas every year. Each class was allotted a section of the auditorium for their own private use one evening. The seniors were in the balcony because as the yearbook points out "in order to be just a little higher" than the freshmen and juniors. Selmer was also a member of the senior boys' octet. His favorite song was "Loving Sam (the Sheik from Alabam)" by Sippie Wallace. The senior class of 1923 willed its ability to sing to the junior class indicating that music was certainly something the class enjoyed.

Selmer's brother, Jesse, took part in the first home project show. He took second in the com-

petition with his Early Ohio potatoes. He also was on the honor roll and a member of the school debating team arguing on the negative team with two other students. They won their competitions arguing against "That the government should establish a corporation to finance the sale of agricultural products during the existing depression." Jesse was responsible for writing the advertisement for The Ruetell Clothing Company in the back of the *Aggie* that year.

When the Anderson boys were juniors, the school enjoyed an outdoor festival held October 29, 1922. The evening began with supper served in the cafete-



There's a Significant Reason Why

Northwest School Students

Patronize this store

The Ruetell
Clothing Company

Jesse Anderson was responsible for writing the advertisement for the Ruetell Clothing Company in the back of the *Aggie* that year.

Yearbooks are a wonderful trip through history.

ria followed by athletic events between classes ending with a tug-of-war. The yearbook goes on to say, "Nearly everyone joined in the never-to-be-forgotten ghost walk through the windbreak (north of the Home Economics building), where myriads of ghosts were encountered. All emerged from this trip without serious mishap, however." The evening concluded with a bonfire. What a fun fall night for students of the Northwest School!

Without the yearbook to record it, we would have lost track of the Anderson boys, but fortunately that is not the case this time.

Jesse Anderson, the oldest of the Anderson boys, would teach school. He

stayed connected to education for many years on the Goodridge School Board. Jesse owned a country store at River Valley, MN southeast of Goodridge. Later he owned The Eire store in Star Township near his family home. He continued to work in his retirement as a salesman for specialty advertising.

Selmer Anderson, followed Jesse in the family, and went to Montana to work as a ranch hand. Their sister Evelyn went along as a cook. Later, Selmer became a rancher near Bainville, Montana. He also was a carpenter and built several barns in that area.

Selmer and Jesse Anderson have a special connection to the UMC campus today. They are

uncles of watercolor painter LaVonne Forsberg who is painting three commissioned pieces for the Kiehle building on the campus. The first painting she completed is of the gazebo decked out for the holidays. By the time this issue of the *Aggie* reaches you, LaVonne will have the Kiehle Building watercolor completed along with one of the new Student Center.

LaVonne is a native of Goodridge, Minnesota (like her uncles) and currently lives in Thief River Falls. She was commissioned by the state of Minnesota to design and paint the Old Mill State Park entrance permit and collector's mug in 2001. She has also been a members' choice award winner at Artists of Minnesota. Since 1979, her work has focused on watercolor, but Forsberg has worked in many mediums through the years including stained glass. She and her husband, Larry, have created a number of stained glass windows for churches and commercial buildings. She has studied under a number of well-known American artists who

Foreword from the 1923 Aggie:

We have striven in the compilation of this book not to make it a mere catalog of events, put down in a matter of fact manner; but rather to portray our school life as we who live here know it best, and may its memories be preserved. Then when years have passed we can take down this Red River Aggie from off the shelf, open its pages and live over again our school days.

helped her develop her own style. Forsberg's artwork has been shown in Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

It is interesting how LaVonne's work will grace the hallways of the school that Selmer and Jesse Anderson attended in the early 1920s. I am sure they would be proud of their niece, and thanks to the yearbook and the memories of family, the legacy and connections of the Northwest School live on in the lives of students today.



LaVonne Forsberg works on her painting of the Kiehle Building home of alumni relations and development.

Flashback

In those days, we took a full hour for lunch at the University of Minnesota Northwest School and Experiment Station. In those days I held the title of Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, both a teaching and administrative position in that I looked after all the buildings and grounds.

I lived right on campus, just a stone's throw from Owen Hall, where the maintenance shop, school shops, and my

As the days went along in that routine, the cheese and "eats" smell would attract a little mouse who got quite tame as we continued to feed him (or her).

office were located. During the summer, since we were a six-month school, we hired extra carpenters, painters, and other help to maintain the considerable group of buildings on the campus. The crews, both permanent and temporary, would gather in the shop area at noon and eat lunch and visit. I would hurry back from my meal at home in order to consult with the crews and give further direction for the projects.

The school got considerable government surplus food at times when those programs were operating and we often got large amounts of cheese. Someone from the shop crew would go to the dining hall and get a big block of cheese which the dining hall staff would be glad to get rid of, especially with six months to go before school started again.

As the days went along in that routine, the cheese and "eats" smell would attract a little mouse who got quite tame as we continued to feed him (or her). The mouse would appear from the exposed braces following a building beam which went up

through the second floor and into the attic. There it was bolted to an assembly of steel beams associated with the roof structure of Owen Hall. Evidently, he could make his way down inside this structure and back to wherever he lived. We

thing be it wood, masonry, or steel. Lawrence kept an old guitar in the corner behind his old chair and though his battered fingers would have fooled you, he put out a variety of guitar music. The men talked about the work at hand, local



Lawrence Ristau was the general mechanic for the NWSA in 1958.

never attracted a big group of mice to worry about, so we never followed up where he went or tried to trap him. He was part of our noon entertainment.

Of course, we had other acts at noon. Lawrence Ristau, the chief maintenance man, would preside in his big old wood swivel chair in the shop corner. Lawrence could fix any-

gossip, and news of the day. It was an interesting assembly and one could learn a lot just sitting and keeping your mouth shut. Lawrence, not I, would see that the group all got back to work.

The most precise thing I ever saw him conquer was the 1908 master clock located in the Hill Building. This clock had connections to all the campus buildings and

Northwest School of Agriculture in the 1950s

timed the class bells all over. Its insides, full of levers and gears, were a wonderful creation until the levers were worn out and the company long out of business. Lawrence actually made a few new levers to keep the clock working as I knew it until at least the 1960s.

Another thing Lawrence invented, a machine to sharpen the blades of the old three-gang lawn mower. The blades, like all the old "push" mowers, were a reel of blades that curved from end to end, the cutting edge just a small

fraction of space as each turned past the cutting bar. His patent could be adjusted so that each turning blade could be sharpened as an electric motor turned the assembly. Naturally, Lawrence was the only one who could handle it. The first time I saw Lawrence was when I was applying for the job and he was working on the mower at the time.

Lawrence was employed and on the job during World War II and it was necessary to "make do" to keep things running. One of the University

Engineers, Phil Erickson, from Minneapolis got a look at his ingenuity and a big laugh about one example of Ristau's skills. Phil was using one of the toilets in (then dormitory) Selvig Hall. His laugh came when he discovered that the toilet paper holder was a Ristau design. Lawrence had made a spring loaded wood cylinder carved and turned out in the shop. I think Erickson took it back to Minneapolis to show them we really needed maintenance funds up here at Crookston.

In passing, I had always

Lawrence was employed on the job during World War II and it was necessary to "make do" to keep things running.

wanted to have the "Station" maintenance shop named the Ristau/Anderson building after two of the early men who made so much difference on the campus. It never happened.

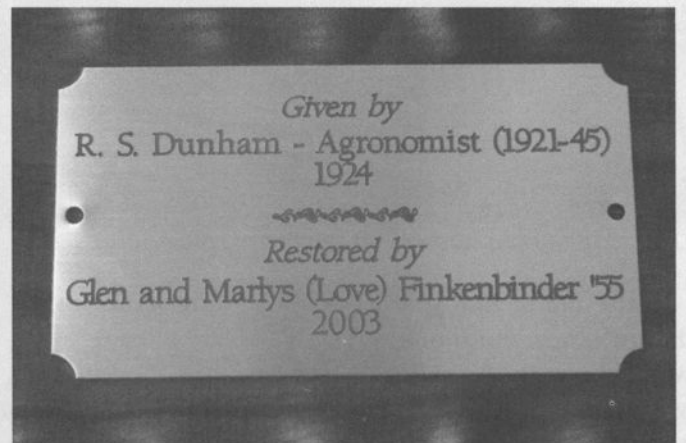
Can you identify this pin?



Do you recognize this pin as an NWSA pin?

If you do, contact us at 218-281-8432.

We're looking for more information on this pin. THANKS!



Munn's jewelry donated a brass plate to identify the gift of the grand piano and its restoration a few years ago. Thank you to the Finkenbinders for giving back to our campus the beautiful piano originally donated by R.S. Dunham. Together, these individuals have made a difference in the lives of students by giving them music!

Flashback

The 1918 Flu Pandemic

By John Novak

The 1918 Spanish flu was the deadliest global pandemic in human history. The strain of flu caused the deaths of millions of people worldwide, and killed more servicemen during World War I than bullets, bombs, and gas combined. In 1918, the average life expectancy for men and women decreased by 12 years in the United States.

Army Training Corps. When the virus reached the Northwest School of Agriculture, school functions and classes were cancelled. In the November 1918 issue of the *Northwest Monthly*, the editors wrote, "This issue... reaches its readers three weeks after the copy was prepared due to influenza which greatly reduced the number of workers at the printing

the number of schooldays missed, students were given only Christmas and the day after off. Nowadays, students would scoff at the very idea of giving up their winter break, but the Northwest School's students made the most an unfavorable situation.

"Many students did not go home, preferring to celebrate the Christmas joys at the school. The

festivities began with a good old fashioned Scandinavian Christmas Eve supper. There was lute-fisk swimming in melted butter, kott bullar that made your mouth water, and lefse just like mother used to make, besides other goodies too numerous to mention." (*Northwest Monthly*)

The evening was spent at Senior Hall.

About eighty students and staff were treated to an appearance by Santa, who brought "presents for all and loads of them."

After the two day break, students went back to class. Students celebrated New Years Eve with "an interesting program of moving pictures, bas-

ketball, and a general good time. It was a jolly crowd that watched the old year out and the new year in, quite reminiscent of the days before the flu when such pleasant student functions were common on Saturday nights."

Back in 1918, there was a procedure in place at the Northwest School of Agriculture in case of a pandemic flu outbreak. Students were sent home and all school functions were cancelled. So what kind of procedure is in place at UMC?

"Currently, pandemic influenza preparedness planning is taking place at the University of Minnesota," says Stacey Grunewald, the Student Health Coordinator here at UMC. "UMC is working very closely with these officials from the University of Minnesota and once they have a plan in place, they will adapt the plan to meet the needs of the Crookston campus."

Such a plan could be implemented in the very near future. Many pathologists now believe that avian flu may be a pandemic waiting in the wings. According to the World Health Organization, human



Circa 1918 nursing students on campus at NWSA.

In the fall of that year the influenza epidemic swept through the state of Minnesota, with the most likely source being infected servicemen brought in from all parts of the country to instruct the University of Minnesota's Student

office." The same issue talks of the closing of school after 22 students were infected, including a 20-year old student who died as a result of pneumonia.

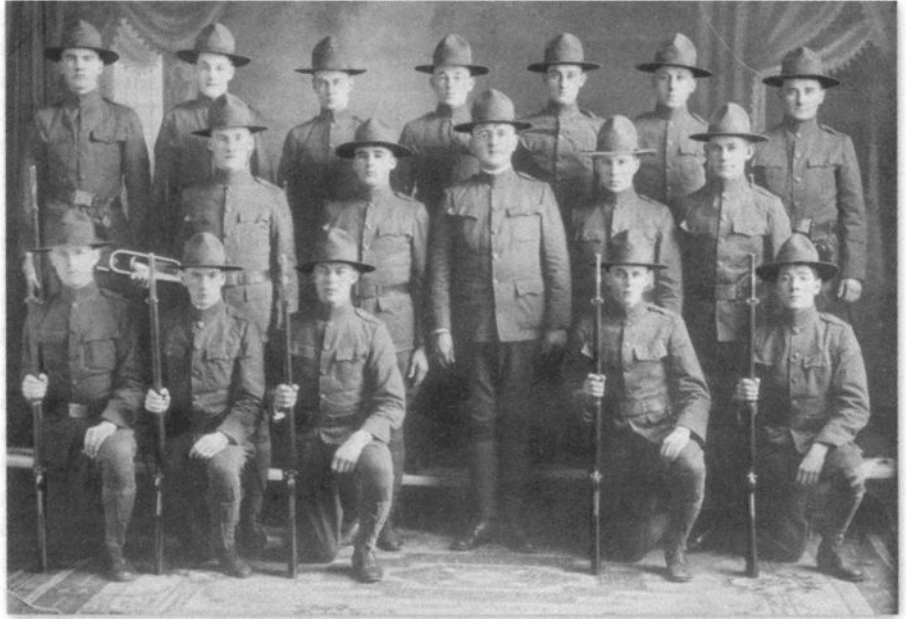
The January 1919 issue of the *Northwest Monthly* explains that classes resumed on the 29th of November, but because of



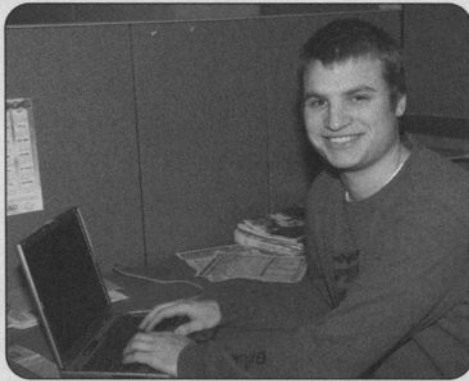
The Spanish strain of flu killed millions of people worldwide.

cases of avian flu infection have been found in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, and, most recently Iraq. If this deadly flu virus were to infect our troops in Iraq, the potential would then exist for history to repeat itself – soldiers carrying the virus with them into the US and spreading it throughout the population. This is just one of the ways the pandemic could start; there are countless other hypothetical situations that could lead to the same disturbing results.

If the avian flu does reach the area, one can only hope that the UMC community will respond as well as the Northwest School did to the Spanish flu over 87 years ago.



Circa 1918 Military Drill Squad on campus at NWSA.



Hello Aggie readers, my name is John Novak and I am the newest member of the Department of Development and Alumni Relations staff here at UMC. I recently transferred to UMC from the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County in Wausau, WI, to finish my undergraduate studies. Wausau is about an eight hour drive from here, so I have been asked by curious students and faculty as to why I chose to come to UMC. Here is the short version of the story of my life and how I got here.

I was born in Boston and lived in Milton, Massachusetts for the first eight years of my life. When I was eight my mother accepted a promotion in Milwaukee, so off we moved to the suburbs of southeastern Wisconsin. A year and a half later she was promoted again, and in the middle of March we moved to Wausau, Wisconsin, where I have lived ever since.

After high school I attended numerous colleges, but never found a subject that could lead me into a satisfying profession. In the summer of 2004 only a film course stood between me and an associates degree in ethnic studies. My plan had been to get the degree and say "so long" to school, and also take over my father's clock and watch store. Although the course was titled Film, more time was spent discussing communication theories than plot structure. The professor had a website which he used to suggest books for his students to read. I bought a few of the ones that we had discussed in class and found them fascinating. Never before had a subject resonated so much with me so I decided to become a professional communicator.

The school I was attending didn't offer a communication degree, so I asked the professor if he could recommend some colleges to check out. One of the colleges he mentioned was UMC, and that a friend of his, Mark Huglen, had just helped start a communication program there. I had never heard of Crookston but decided to take the long drive across Minnesota for a visit, and did so last March. Although it was ridiculously cold and windy here, I felt an instant connection between myself, UMC, and the Crookston community. I also was impressed with the flexibility of the communication program and was told that my faculty advisor would work with me to create my own major emphasis. I asked for an application for admission later that day and was accepted soon after. In May I moved into a house in Crookston with my sixteen year-old beagle, Jammer, and have enjoyed every minute of being here since. I am very excited to be working with the Department of Development and Alumni Relations and look forward to writing interesting articles for all of UMC's publications.

The Legacy Report

This report was written by Les Johnson, Director of Human Resources at UMC as part of his coursework for his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota.

The *Americana Heritage Dictionary* (1985) defined legacy as "Something handed down from an ancestor, or predecessor, or from the past." Over the decades, the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) developed a rich tradition which significantly impacted the lives of people in rural Northwest Minnesota. Those traditions and influences were passed from the NWSA through the University of Minnesota, Technical College and subsequently to the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC). The legacy of the Northwest School of Agriculture was of interest because of the resulting impact the school had on the University of Minnesota, Crookston's identity.

It often takes influential people with great vision, together with historical opportunism, to create something of lasting value which becomes a legacy to future generations. The creation and growth of the Northwest School of Agriculture is an example of this combination.

During the period following the American Civil War, significant changes occurred in U.S. higher education. During the war, the American public became more accepting of the federal government's increasing power and influence. The passage of the Morrill Land Grant Acts of 1862 and 1890 were representative of the federal government's expanding involvement in higher education. The Morrill Acts are significant because they accelerated that rate of change by establishing national priorities for higher education and introduced the concept of state matching dollars (Brubacher & Rudy, 1997). The Morrill Land Grant Acts donated public land in which proceeds from its sale were used as an endowment to establish at least one college in each state with the intent of expanding utilitarian programs of study in engineering, mechanical arts, agriculture and military science. Bogue and Aper (2000) state, "The land grant movement also heralded a transformation in access policy from the elite to the laboring man, in the curriculum from the liberal to the practical, and in purpose from knowledge for its own end to knowledge for applied ends." The legacy of these two monumental acts included expanded access and democratization of higher education. These acts transformed access to higher

education from the privileged elite to the common farmer and laborer. As a servant of the state, state universities promoted the application of science in agriculture and the mechanical arts, resulting in advances in productivity and economic development (Bogue & Aper, 2000; Brubacher & Rudy, 1997).

A basic mission of the land grant institutions established by the Morrill Land Grant Acts was to offer outreach to citizens of the state using both formal and informal methods of educational

opinion concerning the proper content of the agricultural curriculum. In 1886, after considerable thought, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents agreed to establish a practical school of agriculture as one way to adapt to the requirement of the Morrill Acts and meet the growing concerns of farm advocacy groups and various other organizations (Youngquist, 1958).

Visionary leaders such as Senator Peter M. Ringdal and Representative M. E. Craig advanced the idea of



services and programs. The University of Minnesota's establishment of extension services and experiment stations were examples of research and outreach which were instrumental in delivering programs and services to rural Minnesota. However, deciding what type of education to provide often produced controversy. During the late 1800's, there were differences of

establishing experiment stations in rural Minnesota. In 1895, these two legislators introduced separate bills in the Minnesota State Legislature which appropriated \$30,000 for the establishment of an experiment farm in Crookston and Morris (Stymiest, 1978). To support the venture, James J. Hill, president of the dominant railroad company in the Red River Basin

The Legacy Report

donated 476.61 acres two miles north of Crookston. Hill's gift of land "...was termed a 'duck pond' by local critics, the need for drainage was obvious" (Miller, 1995). Community planners astutely turned the obstacle into a political advantage. Area leaders submitted a proposal to the state legislature. The proposal established a team of specialists to study the problem and develop practical solutions to solve the experiment station's drainage problem. The successful solutions were communicated widely to benefit numerous farmers in Northwestern Minnesota, who also struggled with similar surface drainage problems. The proposal received state support and funding was authorized to construct a drainage ditch as an outlet which was followed by extensive soil and horticulture research that benefited the entire region (Miller, 1995).

Torger Hoverstad became the experiment station's first superintendent. He devoted ten years to research, service and teaching residents of the valley how to farm the area's soggy land, provide proper drainage, develop better varieties of crops, and secure the political support necessary to establish a school (Miller, 1995). Many people living in Northwest Minnesota had assumed once the Northwest Experiment Station had demonstrated its effective-

ness, it would only be a matter of time before a regional agricultural school would be established. William Robertson, a faculty member at Central School in St. Paul, clearly understood the value of a regional agricultural school to

Northwestern Minnesota and worked diligently to promote the natural evolution of the idea to the rest of the state (Stymiest, 1978). In 1905, The Minnesota State Legislature established a regional residential agricultural high school. The school was named the Northwest School of Agriculture with a mission to "provide training in the technical and practical business of agriculture and the art of homemaking" (Stymiest, 1978, p.5). Similar to the institutions in St. Paul, Grand Rapids and Morris, the NWSA offered residential high school instruction starting in October and ending in March focusing on agriculture, home economics and business (Lehmberg & Pflaum, 2001).

The legislature also appropriated \$15,000 to build the Home Economics Building, the school's first building. The building served as classroom, library, office, dining hall and dormitory. Under the leadership of Senator A. D. Stephens, the 1907 state legislature appropriated funding for Stephens Hall and Owen Hall. This was followed by additional appropriations in 1909 to build

Kiehle Hall and Robertson Hall (Dowell, 1936).

William Robertson became the second superintendent. He hired staff and faculty, established the academic vocational curriculum for the new school and



installed the essential surface drainage system which improved the campus grounds. The school's first class of 31 students began instruction in the fall of 1906 and the first class graduated from NWSA in 1909 (*A Brief History of UMC*, 2003). The NWSA offered a three-year course curriculum which required students to attend traditional classes from October to March and participate in a "practicum" or "home project", usually on the family farm, during the summer months. The early years were a rapid growth period for the institution. From the first class of 1906-07 to the 1908-09 class, enrollment more than tripled. From 1908-09 to 1915-16, enrollment again doubled (Stymiest, 1978).

The school's third superintendent was Conrad Selvig. Under his direction, the school expanded its commitment to research and cooperation with local organizations. Superintendent Selvig

worked tirelessly to obtain funding for campus beautification and building expansion. Hill Hall was built in 1912, the Heating Plant was constructed in 1913 and the Dining Hall in 1920 along with assorted service and residential buildings. Mr. Selvig's term ended in 1926 when he was elected to the U.S. Congress (Dowell, 1936). Seeing the progress that had been made, James J. Hill had publicly praised the advances and promised further support of funding for a building. Unfortunately, he died before the promise could be realized. Superintendent Selvig reflected on James J. Hill's contribution by writing, "He left a legacy for Northwestern Minnesota even if fate intervened in

Continued on next page...

The Legacy Report

regard to the promised building" (Stymiest, 1978, p. 6).

Bernie Youngquist (1958) explained that the NWSA primarily served twelve northwestern counties and consistently had the largest enrollment of Minnesota's regional agricultural schools. By the 1929-30 term, NWSA's enrollment had grown to 319 students but began to fall during the depression years. By the 1935-36 term enrollment rebounded to 394 students and remained stable until the 1950's. In 1932, the first of the second generation of students enrolled at the NWSA. Dayton Hanson from Fertile, Minnesota was the first of many children of alumni who attended NWSA (Stymiest, 1978). The legacy of family members attending the Northwest School of Agriculture and later the University of Minnesota, Crookston continued; including the Driscoll, Hagen, Kelm and Roers families among many others.

By the mid-1900's, America's demographic and social structure had changed. Enrollment at NWSA reached a peak of 446 students during the 1953-54 term. In his doctoral thesis, Youngquist (1958) observed "The state of Minnesota is the only state where more than one

school of agriculture still exists which are secondary level schools or which are strictly a terminal vocational non-collegiate educational activity." He concluded that residential high schools of agriculture were no longer needed in Minnesota. His study found that public high schools were providing increased curricula in vocational studies and recommended that schools such as NWSA be replaced by higher level collegiate institutions.

In 1963, Youngquist's thesis was followed by the University of Bureau of Field Studies report which concluded a college-level technical institute was needed in Northwest Minnesota. In 1965, the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota concurred and decided to phase out the NWSA and replace the high school with a two-year college program. (Lehmberg and Pflaum, 2001). The Minnesota State legislature appropriated funding in 1965 to establish the University of Minnesota Technical Institute on the campus of the Northwest School of Agricultural in Crookston, and classes began in September, 1966 serving 185 students. Both entities shared the campus until 1968 at which time the Northwest School of Agriculture conducted commencement ceremonies for its final class of graduates. During the ceremony, David Bohnsack representing the NWSA passed the "Torch of



Education" to Ron Tobkin, representing the new University of Minnesota Technical Institute. Set upon a firm foundation of 85 years of tradition and accomplishments, the new Technical Institute became an official coordinate campus of the University of Minnesota. The institution went on to rename itself the University of Minnesota Technical College in 1969 and became the University of Minnesota, Crookston Campus in 1988 (Stymiest, 1978).

Donald Sargeant, UMC Chancellor Emeritus (personal communication, July 7, 2005) described the importance of the NWSA as "A resource to Northwestern Minnesota which continually provided new ways to apply knowledge in the fields of agriculture, industry and business." He viewed the NWSA as a faithful extension of James Hill's vision. The school was a trailblazer by providing access to higher education in agriculture, home economics and mechanical arts in northwest Minnesota.

Through coursework, farm families were introduced to new technologies which enriched the social and economic development of the region and state. NWSA's applied fields of study met the emerging needs of agriculture and industry, resulting in economic development and an improved standard of living for the citizens of the region. Chancellor Sargeant stated, "The University through the Northwest School of Agriculture provided education, research and extension which had a huge impact on the region. The Land Grant Acts were perfectly served by the school because it helped the nation become stronger and much more competitive at a time when the United States was just starting to emerge as a world power."

Dr. Sargeant observed that the NWSA had many significant advantages including "a large number of highly qualified instructors. The NWSA has many more Ph.D. and Master's level instructors than other high schools in the region.

The Legacy Report

From the very beginning the school had an intense six-month academic term; residential facilities; applied programs of study in agriculture, business and home economics; and a deserved reputation for being an excellent preparatory school for students planning on attending college. At the time, the Northwest School of Agriculture was the best quality high school available in rural Minnesota." Youngquist confirmed that the NWSA had a highly qualified faculty and that 26% of NWSA's graduation class went on to enroll in college.

Chancellor Sargeant concurred with Dr. Youngquist's assessment that the need for a residential agricultural high school in rural Minnesota had declined by 1960. He observed, "During the 1960's the number of two-year colleges were expanding across the nation to meet the emerging vocational needs of the country. Recognizing the national trend, The University of Minnesota converted the NWSA into a two-year college which offered a practical education in agriculture, business and industry to better align the school with the evolving needs of northwest Minnesota and the nation."

Dr. Sargeant's thirty-six years at the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) provided him a deep insight into the legacy of the NWSA. "One of the

Northwest School of Agriculture's legacies is its generational impact. It was not uncommon for children and grandchildren of former students to attend the school. The school nurtured and developed generations of citizens who became community and business leaders throughout northwestern Minnesota." He stated that another important legacy had been the institution's continuing connection to the University of Minnesota. "From day one, our affiliation with the University of Minnesota has set both NWSA and UMC apart from all other institutions in the region and state. There is no question that students benefited from having access to University of Minnesota faculty and resources. The international reputation of the University of Minnesota helped graduates when the time came for them to pursue additional education and/or job placement. Our community and graduates have always been proud of their connection to the University of Minnesota." In looking forward, he reflected, "UMC continues to be impacted by declining rural population, fewer farm families and limited number of program degrees. Our strength is that we continue to offer applied fields of study that provide new ways to incorporate knowledge and technology to meet the rapidly changing needs of agriculture, industry and business."

Theodore Paul, 1967 NWSA graduate (personal communication, July 11, 2005) confirmed that attending the NWSA was an exceptional experience. Mr. Paul described the strength of the school as, "Practical hands-on experience which developed high quality job skills. I was able to take classes in welding, wood-working and mechanics which were not available at other regional high schools. These are skills I am still using thirty years later." He described the residential school's environment as, "both challenging and enjoyable." He stated that most students considered it a privilege and honor to attend NWSA. "The Northwest School of Agriculture was very popular because the school offered an abbreviated six-month academic term, small class size and personal attention. Students obtained a high quality education which helped them successfully take over the family farm, start a business or go

on to college." Mr. Paul further elaborated, "The school offered excellent student academic assistance services. The teachers worked with you as long as it took until you understood the information. The faculty's level of dedication was so high that I don't think anyone flunked. NWSA was really unique in that the school was almost self sufficient. We raised all our own beef, poultry and dairy products. Everyone learned a strong work ethic because we worked in the barns learning proper animal care and trade skills." Mr. Paul reflected, "While some things have changed a lot, some things are the same. The campus is still beautiful; Robertson Hall and McCall Hall have hardly changed, programs are still student centered and the campus is still small enough where everyone knows each others name."

This story will be continued in the next edition of the Aggie.

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Scholarship Spotlight

In 1946, the Experiment Station celebrated 51 years since its founding. T.M. McCall who served as superintendent at that time, had been an integral part of the Station and the Northwest School of Agriculture (NWSA) for 35 years. William Barron was teaching classes in field machinery, tractor, and motors. Edwin Bennett was coaching cross country and wrestling, and Fae Hughbanks was instructing students in shorthand and typewriting. There were almost 400 students that year.

Ray K. Johnson, Cincinnati, Ohio and Lorraine Anderson Nesland, Long Beach California, members of the Northwest School of Agriculture, Class of 1946, spearheaded the drive to honor their classmate and establish the Frances Klein-Fortie Scholarship.

Audrey Linde and Alvin Naplin served as the class advisors. Mr. Naplin had to be replaced when he left to join the Navy and Alvin Nordvold took his place as advisor. When the class was in their junior year, they planned a prom with the theme "The Deep Blue Sea" creating the atmosphere for a long-remembered evening. The class motto became "Forward ever; backward never." With Edward Nelson as class president, the class of 1946 won the annual song contest and when they graduated they knew it was just the beginning of each of their lives' and that each of them still had much to accomplish.

Frances Klein, nicknamed Fran, from Warroad, Minnesota was one of the members of the class of 1946. She was an attendant to homecoming queen, Geneva Iverson, along with Colleen Skeie, Ellen Johnson, Iris Sinclair, and Lillian Qualley. Frances enjoyed her years at the NWSA, she was member of the "Agony Sisters" with Ellen Johnson of Lancaster and placed second in the annual all-student variety night in January of 1946. She played "Hyacinth" in the

senior class play, "Brother Goose." She was on the class honor roll a number of times and involved in choir, basketball, and volleyball. She loved attending the NWSA.

After her graduation, she went to Minneapolis, and in 1951, she enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. She received her basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina and was later assigned as a receptionist to the Under Secretary of the Navy at the Pentagon.

One of Frances' fondest memories was when she represented the U.S. Marine Corp in a "First Day of Issue" ceremony for a three-cent stamp honoring women in the Armed Services. President Harry S. Truman presided over this event. The photograph of Frances representing the U.S. Marine Corps was taken with President Truman along with the 3¢ stamps issued in 1952 are permanently together, framed, and hanging in the Development and Alumni Relations Office at UMC. Eventually, the photo-

The Class of '46



Frances Klein served in the U.S. Marine Corps which led to a personal visit with President of the United States, Harry S. Truman.

graph will be hung in the Heritage Room in the Kiehle Building.

In 1997, the class of 1946, paid tribute to their classmate by creating a scholarship fund in her name to help students at the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) to pay for their education. In 1998, the Frances Klein-Fortie Scholarship was created, and it has helped students at UMC ever since. This year's recipient is Rob Proulx from Red Lake Falls, Minnesota. His grandfather, Earl Proulx of Argyle, Minnesota, attended the Northwest School and was a junior in 1946 the same year Frances was a senior.

"The alumni have given so much to UMC" — Rob Proulx



Earl Proulx listed becoming an athletic coach as one of his ambitions in the 1947 yearbook.

Earl was an outstanding athlete and football co-captain in 1947. He also served as president of the "A" Club. The *Northwest Monthly* reported another of his successes: "At the Awards Assembly held on January 9, trophies for outstanding accomplishment in student summer home project work in 1947 by students at the Northwest School of Agriculture were won by Phyllis Anderson of Caledonia, North Dakota, and Earl Proulx of Red Lake Falls. Phyllis Anderson ranked first in five Home Economics home projects and Earl Proulx finished seven home projects with high grades in each." Earl enjoyed the Northwest

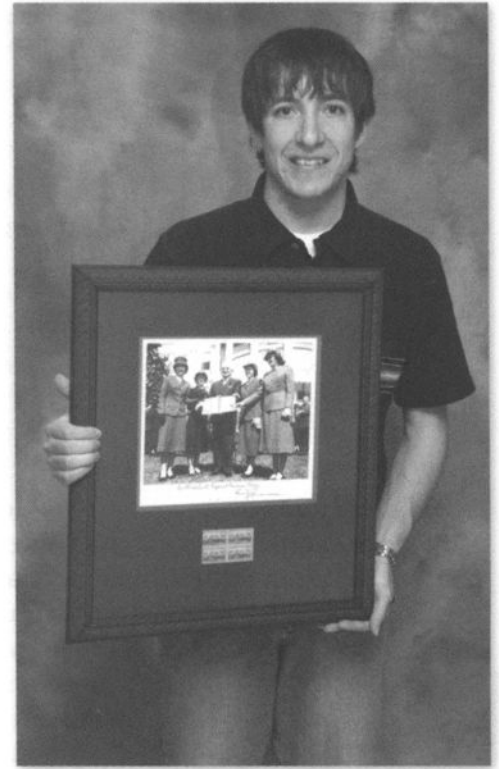
School and holds the school in high regard.

His grandson, Rob is no stranger to success either. A senior majoring in plant industries management, Rob, placed second in the National Collegiate Crops Contests in Kansas City on November 15, 2005 and again in Chicago on November 19. He has been named to the Chancellor's 4.0 Club more than once. The first year after Rob transferred, he was a tutor in the Academic Assistance Center, and he is currently a member of the Agronomy Club. Rob will graduate in the spring 2006 and is considering attending graduate school in agronomy or a related field when he is finished.

Rob appreciated the help scholarships provided. "In the ag area," Rob explains, "there are so many scholarships and alumni have given so much to UMC students. The student scholarship application is filled with support from the Northwest School. UMC has changed over the years, but the legacy is still here. We appreciate the help we receive from the alumni."

Rob started attending college at Concordia in Moorhead as a business major, but when he decided to change majors and schools, he looked immediately at UMC. "It is a school with a great reputation in agriculture," Rob stated. That reputation influenced Rob's decision to attend UMC. Four out of the five Proulx children attended UMC so Rob not only had the influence of his grandfather, but he also had the influence of siblings who had attended. His younger brother, Eric, is a freshman this year so Rob is not the last of the Proulx's to choose UMC.

There is something about the legacy that lives through scholarships that reaches out to students over many miles and over the years. If you are interested in supporting descendents of the Northwest School through scholarship giving, please contact the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at 218-281-8439 or 800-862-6466 ext. 8439. Scholarships help students like Rob reach their goals, you can be a part of helping UMC students by your gift to the Heritage Fund Drive or establishing a scholarship of your own. Thank you for considering a contribution and for the gifts that have made such a difference throughout history.



Rob Proulx, recipient of the Klein-Fortie Scholarship, holds the photograph of Frances Klein in 1952 with President Truman.

Faculty Spotlight

Earlier this winter, UMC Chancellor Charles H. Casey, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Pam Holsinger-Fuchs, and natural resources students gave the “feathered folks” at UMC a boost by filling the “Nature Nook” bird feeder. Interestingly enough, it is the same bird feeder that was inaugurated in 1974. It was originally built by Bill McWaters, campus carpenter, and painted by the Conservation Club

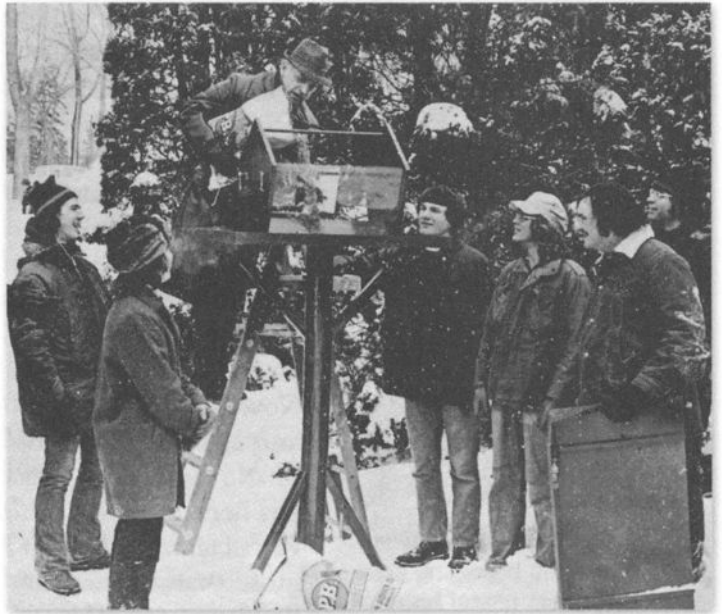


Originally the bird feeder was in the sunken garden in front of what is now the Sahlstrom Conference Center, but is now located in the Nature Nook wildlife development area between Owen and Hill Halls.

but has gone through a couple of face lifts and repairs since then. The Provost at that time was Stanley Sahlstrom, shown filling the feeder in 1974. In the original article in the February 14, 1974 issue of the UMC Commentator, Sahlstrom noted, “Our avian friends are a very important part of the total environment and this is dedicated in the hope that all of us will develop a better appreciation of the total environment in which we live.” Two of the students present at the initial dedication have certainly gone on to appreciate and improve the environment. Mike Kovacovich is the current manager of Itasca State Park, the crown jewel of Minnesota’s state parks. David Thom, is now the Resources and Planning Staff Officer of the Black Hills National Forest in South

Originally the bird feeder was in the sunken garden in front of what is now the Sahlstrom Conference Center but is now located in the Nature Nook wildlife development area between Owen and Hill Halls. Nature Nook is a joint project of UMC’s

Still for the Birds...

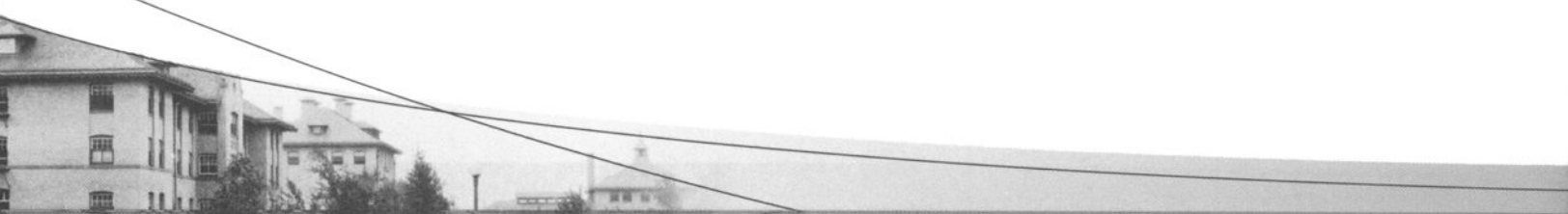


Provost Sahlstrom filling the feeder – 1974. From left, Michael Kovacovich, Robert Pollock, Sahlstrom, David Thom, Jeff Becker, Unidentified, and Doug Albin.

Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, advised by John Loegering, and the Natural Resources Club (formerly Conservation Club) advised by Phil Baird. Club members secured \$2,000 in grant funds from the Minnesota Chapter of The Wildlife Society and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to develop Nature Nook. When completed it will host a micro-cosm of Minnesota’s three biomes – Deciduous Forest, Coniferous Forest, and Tallgrass Prairie. So far a number of trees and

shrubs have been moved in with a tree spade to complement a butterfly garden, raingarden, and wildlife tree. The raingarden is a depression planted to native aquatic plants to catch and purify runoff water from the buildings. Other possibilities include a small peat bog and water garden with a small waterfall.

So far, the Nature Nook area has attracted many fall migrant birds and the feeder daily hosts a number of house sparrows and up to four gray squirrels. “The feeder really adds a lot of interest to students as they walk



after all these years!

Faculty Spotlight

down the hallways on two levels and can note the activity," according to Nate Emery, former Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society President and UMC's 2005 Man of the Year. Emery authored the grant applications to obtain start-up funds for Nature Nook. The club will be developing interpretive placards in the hallways to identify feeder visitors and explain interesting natural history notes.

Chancellor Casey filling the feeder- 2005.
From left; Natural Resources Club President – Jennifer Tepovich, Heath Estey, Michael Hill, Tamara Saxton, Amanda Williams, Chancellor Casey, Pam Holsinger-Fuchs, Melissa Lance, Alisha Fleming, and Richard Rice.



Inauguration of Chancellor Charles H. Casey March 3

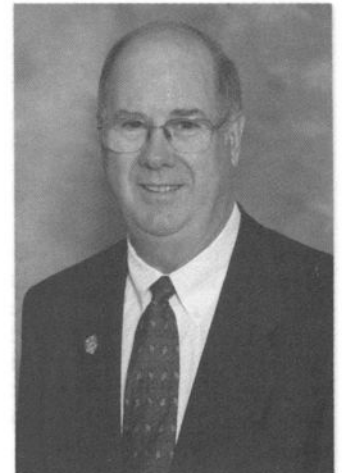
Dr. Charles H. Casey was inaugurated March 3 as the fourth chancellor of the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC). His inauguration was a day long celebration for the UMC campus. The ceremony took place at 2:30 in Kiehle Auditorium and was followed by a reception in the Northern Lights Lounge in the Student Center. Everyone who attended felt the enthusiasm and excitement surrounding Chancellor Casey's appointment.

In the evening, UMC faculty, staff, alumni, community members, and other friends celebrated not only the inauguration but the centennial at a social and dinner, which featured locally grown foods. Local producers featured at the dinner included wine from Two Fools Winery in Plummer (owned and operated by Senator LeRoy Stumpf and his wife), locally grown potatoes from Spokely Farms of Nielsville, MN, and even homemade breads made by a 4-H club in Clay County. Coffee and wild rice came from White Earth (<http://www.nativeharvest.com>).

There were candles made by the Bridge Street Candle Company in Crookston, which the horticulture students from UMC used in their arrangements for the tables. Gifts for the platform guests were created by Marv Lundin of Thief River Falls. He does woodworking and his special lazer engraved clocks commemorating the event were given to the platform guests.

Gifts for those attending the ceremony included centennial chocolates made by Widman's candy in Grand Forks, ND and note cards that feature prints by local artist LaVonne Forsberg of Thief River Falls. She was commissioned to paint three watercolors for the Kiehle Building. The watercolors featured the new Student Center, the Kiehle Building, and the Gazebo on the campus mall.

Following the meal, was a centennial dance featuring a jazz ensemble from the University of North Dakota. The entire celebration was the highlight of the centennial year and a day that will be long remembered. It is also a bright harbinger of the future. If you would like to learn more about the inauguration, visit the Web site at www.UMCrookston.edu/



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In Memory

Herschel Lysaker

Crookston's Lysaker leaves legacy in sports and music

From the Grand Forks Herald; By Lisa Gibson, Herald Staff Writer

Herschel Lysaker, clarinetist and recognized athlete, died Wednesday, February 8, 2006 morning at age 95.

He had been residing in the Villa St. Vincent Nursing Home in Crookston since July 2004. The date and time of Lysaker's funeral services are pending.

Lysaker loved music. He began playing the clarinet in sixth grade, crying because his mother made him practice two hours per day. The practice paid off though, and Lysaker held first-chair at Concordia College and also played solo clarinet in the Fargo-Moorhead symphony. Lysaker joined the Ninth District Band about this time and eventually became the business manager.

He continued to play in the band as he coached football and basketball and served as the athletic director at the University of Minnesota-Crookston, where the Lysaker Auditorium is named after him. UMC also has established the Herschel Lysaker Endowment Fund to honor his legacy as a coach and athletic director.

"He loved what he was doing," said his wife, Yvonne Lysaker, whom he married in 1997.

Lysaker was inducted into the Minnesota Football Hall of Fame, the Concordia College Hall of Fame, and the UND Athletic Hall of Fame, where he received the Tom Clifford Award.

Lysaker retired from UMC in 1976, after 32 years of service.

"It never failed," said Yvonne Lysaker, "whenever we would go to meetings, men would put a hand on his shoulder and say, 'How's my old coach?'" Yvonne added, "I would laugh because they usually looked older than he did."

Herschel Lysaker remained active in the Ninth District Band until 2002 when he retired at age 91, saying, "It is time for someone else to take over, and I will help out as long as I can."

"He didn't miss a convention or parade," Yvonne said. Lysaker was very dedicated to the band and is quoted as saying, "I'll quit when I can't march anymore."

Yet, even after retirement, Lysaker joined the band again this past summer and played with them at many venues.

Yvonne recalls being told many times by many different people that they would not be where they are if it weren't for Herschel Lysaker.

"He was a giving person and was concerned about others," said Yvonne Lysaker. "If someone needed help, he was always right there. He was a very, very special man."



Class Notes



Donald & Phyllis (Gilbertson) Jorgensen '40 & '43

Stephen, MN
The Jorgensens celebrated 60 years of marriage on November 20, 2005 with their children. They were married November 23, 1945 in Hawley, MN.



Dean Skjerven '54

Hoople, ND
Dean Skjerven and his wife, Leah celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 6, 2005.

Eileen (Arnold) Boelter '61

Cohasset, MN
Eileen (Arnold) & Stuart Boelter '61, have seven children, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Eileen was recently featured in the Grand Rapids Herald-Review in the Variety section highlighting her many hobbies and interests and particularly her expertise in the kitchen.

Willie Huot '63

Grand Forks, ND
Willie Huot was honored at the Extension/Research Extension Center fall conference for 30 years with the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Service.



In Memory

Marie (Austin) Anderson '21
Thief River Falls, MN
February 11, 2006

Dorothy Weber att '29-'30
Britt, MN
August 22, 2005

Thorvald Moe att '31-'32
January 1, 2006

Orin Refling '32
Fertile, MN
November 12, 2005

Richard Holmgren '33
Warroad, MN
May 30, 2005

Ralph Sheldon '34
Bagley, MN
October 16, 2005

Ray M. Hanson att '36-'39
Rochert, MN
August 25, 2005

H. Lois Olson '38
Sioux Falls SD
July 31, 2005

Wallace Evans att '38-'39
Crookston, MN
January 11, 2006

J. Ordell Frigstad '40
Fosston, MN
January 7, 2006

Ida "June" (Baird) Simpson '40
Roseburg, OR
November 26, 2005

Lionel "Bud" Landby '43
Warroad, MN
June 29, 2005

Allen Thureen '43
East Grand Forks, MN
December 12, 2005

Richard Riopelle '45
Argyle, MN
December 29, 2005

Bennet Moen '46
Hawley, MN
July 9, 2005

Gerald Hoekstra '56
Twin Valley, MN
June 24, 2005

Orrin Osowski '68
Oslo, MN
September 7, 2005

Katherine Hennig
NWSA Music Instructor 1933-1937
Minneapolis, MN
October 9, 2005

Gifts in Memory
In memory of Richard Holmgren '33 by his children Marvel Duffy and Van Holmgren.

Memorial Gifts
The NWSA Heritage Fund accepts memorial contributions honoring departed alumni, friends and loved ones. If you wish to honor an individual, please make your gift to the NWSA Heritage Fund and send it to our office and we will notify the family that our office has received of a memorial gift. Please consider your alumni association family for future memorial gifts.



Top Aggie Nomination Form

Please return this form by: **March 24, 2006**

The NWSA "Top Aggie" award is the highest honor bestowed on NWSA alumni. The award recognizes exemplary commitment and service to NWSA Alumni, education, community, church, family and work.

I wish to nominate _____

Please provide a brief description as to why you believe your nominee deserves to be honored as a NWSA "Top Aggie." Feel free to use additional sheets if necessary.

Mail To: NWSA Alumni Association
Kiehle 115
2900 University Avenue
Crookston, MN 56716-5001

Nominator's Signature

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