Willard T. Schield
Montevideo, Minn.
This is not intended to be a history of the West Central School of Agriculture. West Central is far too new an institution to furnish the historian a desirable subject. Rather let these paragraphs be a few personal reminiscences of a growing child—a child in the field of education that has been unusually healthy during its infant years and one whose future is bright with promise.

Official Records tell us that the West Central School was created by the Legislature of Minnesota in 1909. What was then known as the Federal Indian School of Morris was at that time accepted by the State as a gift from the Federal Government with the provision that it should be used for an Agricultural School. In accepting the bequest and creating the School the Legislature wisely placed the administration of the new Institution in the hands of the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota. The creation of the West Central School was the third in the family of Agricultural Schools to be established. Those at St. Paul and Crookston were already in existence. The Hon. L. C. Spooner, of Morris, took the leading part in arranging for the transfer of the old Indian School property to the State. Mr. Spooner also fostered the legislation creating the School and interested himself in getting proper financial support for the new Institution. Several other local citizens of Morris also took an active interest and part in the establishment of the new school.

It may be of interest to say for the benefit of the students of later years that the campus
as we know it today is quite a different picture from the sight that presented itself to the first student body. At the time the old Indian School was converted into an Agricultural School, it took more than a stretch of the imagination to believe that it could ever become a child of promise. The property had been abandoned for some time. The farm and grounds had run wild with weeds of all the persistent varieties. Piles of junk, rubbish and debris of every description littered the grounds. The main building was the old frame dining hall building located on the south side of the main quadrangle. In this L shaped old and rambling three-story building much of the early history of the School was made. All of the farm help, school help, and boy students lived in this building as well as some of the faculty. The main floor was used for dining hall purposes. Two other buildings also were located on the main campus square. One of these was used as the first girls’ dormitory and later as the School Hospital. The other, located on the southeast corner of the campus was used successively as laundry, stock judging room, and chemistry laboratory. What are now the Music Building, Home Economics Building, and a part of the present Administration Building, were also among the original buildings. Since that time the State has invested considerably more than these buildings originally cost in rebuilding them for the purposes they are now used. The other original buildings consisted of a miscellaneous collection of old wooden barns and shacks scattered about the grounds. All of these old buildings have long since been torn down to make way for the modern buildings that now comprise the physical equipment of the School.

The first session was held in the Fall of 1910 with Mr. E. C. Higbie as Superintendent. The enrollment for the first year was 104. Among the early faculty members who will be remembered by students of those days are Miss Irma Hathorn, who was the first Preceptress of girls and is now Dean of Women at River Falls Normal School in Wisconsin; Susan Wilder, who was the first Home Economics teacher and is now in charge of Home Economics Extension Work in South Dakota; S. I. Snortum, who was the first Registrar and Accountant, and now Dis-
strict Manager of the Equitable Life Insurance Company at Bemidji, Minnesota. His wife, Elizabeth Mott Snortum, was also one of the early faculty members. Dr. Higbie, the first superintendent, is now President of Eastern State Teachers College at Madison, S. D. R. H. Giberson, now Assistant State Club leader, located at the West Central School, will also be remembered as one of the faculty pioneers. O. O. Bye, our first Instructor in Carpentry and Superintendent of Buildings, now retired and living in Minneapolis, will always be honored by the hundreds of boys who were his students. This brief sketch does not permit any further mention of those faculty members who gave so generously and loyally to the welfare and upbuilding of the School.

The student groups of early years were interested in the same work and play in which present-day students are interested. Anyone who cares to look up the early records of the athletic teams and debating teams will see that they set a pace that present-day interscholastic teams will be kept busy in maintaining. Perhaps the high-light of early day football was when the West Central Team of 1918 defeated the Graceville High School by a 91 to 0 score. The first Moccasin was published in 1914 and without missing a single volume each class has published their volume of this book. In the Superintendent's Office is a complete file of these books and they present an interesting cross-section of student life.

As the student body increased in size, so the campus began to enlarge and take definite form. The Girls' Dormitory was erected in 1912; Spooner Hall in 1913; Engineering Building in 1915; Dining Hall in 1918; Senior Hall in 1920; Agricultural Hall in 1921; Hospital in 1924; and Junior Hall in 1926. During that same time the entire farm plant has been
DRESSMAKING IN YEARS GONE BY

erected and the original buildings now standing entirely rebuilt. The Experiment Station work had been developed, the campus and grounds planted and landscaped.

During the short time that West Central has been in existence, upwards of 2000 students have been registered in the regular school courses while last year enrollment in all courses reached 1177. The great majority of these former students and alumni are now living in west central Minnesota, where they are engaged in farming, home making or similar work. Some are already achieving more than passing success in their chosen vocations. Since the establishment of the School there has been only one change in the superintendency and that occurred in 1917 when Mr. Miller, the present Superintendent, succeeded E. C. Higbie.

Successive administrations in the University of Minnesota have always given the West Central School all helpful assistance and cooperation in developing the School program of work and in seeing that the physical needs of the growing School were adequately supplied.

The West Central School of Agriculture is now permanently established in the system of educational institutions under State control. It has the responsibility of teaching an ever increasing number of the young men and women who will make the future farmers and home makers of western Minnesota. It is an inspiring task worthy of our best effort. For it is not too much to hope that through education we will unlock the problems that now confront agriculture, and that the West Central School and the ever increasing number of its students and alumni may as time goes on make a real contribution to this worthy cause.

P. E. MILLER.
Evald Stark  President
Almyra Eide  Vice President
Axzine Frey  Secretary
Leonard Murphy  Treasurer
Miss Curtiss  Adviser
CLASS ROLL

Anderson, Viola ........................................... Clarkfield
Baldry, Lorraine ............................................. Chokio
Bakke, Frances ................................................. Granite Falls
Bergien, Ruth .................................................... Carlos
Blank, Anna ....................................................... Carlos
Blank, Lydia ....................................................... Carlos
Bosch, Gladys E. ................................................. Montevideo
Buechers, Mary .................................................. Freeport
Bahr, Leslie ....................................................... Morris
Bourne, Bertram ................................................. Montevideo
Brown, Howard ................................................ White Rock, S. D.
Burchill, Deloss ............................................... Evansville
Cline, Elsie ....................................................... Bertha
Diehl, Russell ................................................... Donnelly
Dunn, Ralph ....................................................... Porter
Eide, Almyra ..................................................... Erdahl
Ellison, Ernest ................................................... Elbow Lake
Frey, Axzine ...................................................... Beardsley
Fredrickson, Mauritz .......................................... Starbuck
Getchell, John .................................................. Donnelly
Gray, Harold ..................................................... Chokio
Grill, Meinhard .................................................. Wolverton
Hawkinson, Arthur ............................................. Cyrus
Jertson, Mildred ............................................... Hazel Run
Jergenson, Lawrence .......................................... Donnelly
Kehr, Mary ....................................................... Elbow Lake
Kjera, Alvina ..................................................... Cyrus
Keifer, Clayton ................................................. Montevideo
Knorr, Floyd ..................................................... Madison
Lawler, Marjorie ............................................... Morris
Lee, Lillian ....................................................... Marietta
Lohse, Thelma ................................................... Erdahl
Lysen, Evelyn ................................................... Benson
Miles, Clara ....................................................... Barrett
Morrill, Shirley .................................................. Chokio
Mullen, Marvin ............................................... Campbell
Mumm, Kenneth ................................................ Ivanhoe
Murphy, Leonard .............................................. Chokio
Myrhe, Harold G. .............................................. Clarkfield
Nelson, Irwin ................................................... Cyrus
Odegaard, Otis ................................................ Sacred Heart
Olmeim, Nels .................................................... Starbuck
Peterson, John ................................................ Willmar
Pochardt, Lawrence .......................................... Lynd
Private, Bernard .............................................. Graceville
Reisrud, Emma ................................................ Starbuck
Reisrud, Nora ................................................ Starbuck
Ronholdt, Alvin ............................................... Murdoch
Stark, Adele ..................................................... Kensington
Stark, Dagny ..................................................... Kensington
Sandberg, Milio ............................................... Erdahl
Sheggeby, Prescott .......................................... Echo
Sheilds, Wilbur L. ........................................... Montevideo
Skonard, Julian ............................................. Montevideo
Stark, Evald ................................................... Kensington
Streit, Leroy ................................................ Marietta
Tollefson, Hazel ............................................... Hendricks
Thronson, Maurice .......................................... Evansville
Vetter, Lloyd V. ............................................... Montevideo
Wickstrom, Carrie .......................................... Alberta
Wille, Frances ................................................ Morris
Wilson, Jeanette ............................................ Donnelly
Westereng, Leighton ........................................ Morris
Zahl, Ellsworth ............................................... Morris
What "Scar" lacks in natural ability he makes up for in fight. Though his first year on the squad, through his aggressiveness he was honored by being elected captain.
RAYMOND LEHMAN "Ray" Forward
Ray is another recruit from the ranks of the Senior class team. A valuable asset to the team.

WILBUR SCHIELDS "Shorty" Forward
For a little man he is a good player. Though his first attempt at basketball he could be counted upon to give a good account of himself whenever called upon.

RUDOLPH BREKKEN "Rudy" Guard
Rudy is a plugger and plays a good heady game.

KNUTE JOHNSON "Knute" Center
Knute is not a natural basketball player, nevertheless he has the right spirit and always gives all he has to the game when called upon.

IRWIN APMANN "Apmann" Guard
Apmann was on the squad a while last year, but played only one quarter. He plays a good guarding game and knows how to use his size and weight to advantage.