The flags are out and decorative pylons at the intersections on Broadway Street, Crookston, looking northwards from Second Street. The Commercial Hotel served well as a place to stay, to eat, and to have meetings.

Shows finds itself in its fourth home on the northern edge of the city of Crookston on Highway 2 and 75, located on 25 acres of land with buildings and facilities worth in excess of three million dollars.

A very useful relationship was established in the late 1970’s. The light horse management training program at the University of Minnesota Technical College in Crookston needed an up-to-date modern stable for housing and care of recreational horses. Here the Winter Shows board of managers and the University worked out an arrangement. The board of managers built a stabling facility for long-time lease by the college and also an additional arena for Winter Shows concession space which they also leased to the Technical College as a riding laboratory and teaching facility in light horse management. This is another example of the “do it yourself spirit” of people in northwestern Minnesota. These facilities would have cost the taxpayers over a million dollars, and here they’ve been provided by the cooperative relationship of the Winter Shows and the University at no capital building expense to the taxpayers of Minnesota.

There will probably never be enough money available to do all of the things that the Winter Shows board of managers would like to do. Maybe that is good. It keeps the volunteer planners and managers on their toes. There have been times when the financial outlook was a bit bleak but when you realize that the 75-year history includes two major world wars, a major depression, a fire, and 75 years of volunteer planning and leadership, the present several million dollar facility has to be an unusual accomplishment by citizens of the 14 counties. The board of managers has handled its money well over the years. Certainly the record is not clear of errors in judgment, but prudent management by the leadership may be best expressed by noting that some 20 banks carry the mortgage capital debt owed on the facilities. Details can be found in the appendix. Certainly hard-nosed bankers aren’t going to set up long-term mortgage paper if past operations do not merit appropriate faith and trust.

The Winter Shows is a midwinter break. It is a time when people are ready to get out of the house and get away for visiting, for learning, and for having a little fun. Modern roads, automobiles, snowplows and communication media make this winter activity quite easy today compared with the efforts necessary by the pioneers. The balance of this book will attempt to gather in one volume a sampling of the human spirit and energetic dedication associated with the 75 year Red River Valley Winter Shows.

Salutes The
RED RIVER VALLEY
WINTER SHOWS
ON THEIR
75th ANNIVERSARY
McKINNON CO., INC.
CROOKSTON, MINNESOTA