and until 1940 when the 4-H district office was moved to St. Paul. Today there's a full gamut of crop judging, livestock teams, and dairy teams, as well as a grain clinic emphasizing clean grain production and storage. An arts-in extravaganza for 4-H youth is an exciting, recent development. A talent festival has been conducted for over 25 years, with rather attractive cash prizes for those who are judged winners. The Minnesota dairy princess is involved, and a youth horse husbandry clinic and judging contest are on the scene. In addition there are a cow clipping contest, a dog show, a futurity livestock show, and pony rides and a children's barnyard for the tiny children.

The great American institution—the banquet for entertainment, for fun and fellowship—was an early item among Winter Shows events. In the past history of the Winter Shows these banquets tended to be held early in the evening, followed by lectures in the evening program. Today there are midday banquets as well as evening banquets. Banquet speakers are not as popular today. Evening lectures have practically disappeared.

Food, of course, is important to those who come to see the Show. The restaurants and private clubs in Crookston have always been good hosts. For nearly forty years the ladies of the Methodist and of the Trinity Lutheran Church provided coffee, pie, and grill foods at the old winter shows buildings downtown. The story is told that these hard-working ladies paid off a substantial portion of the mortgage on the new Trinity Church with proceeds from their annual feeding of the crowds at the Farm Crop Show. At present, the food concession in the new buildings is under the control of the Winter Shows board of managers.

Beginning about World War I a trend for various organizational meetings during Winter Shows began and grew for nearly a 30-year period. The various commodity groups, the new Northwest School Alumni Association, the purebred livestock associations, the board of managers, Crops and Soils Association, for example, would use the Winter Shows as a time to meet, for fellowship and business discussion. A few annual meetings were scheduled for that time of year.

As an example, the program of one of the early 1920 Winter Shows included the following meetings: Red River Valley Guernsey Breeders, Red River Valley Holstein Breeders, Crookston Association of Public Affairs, Red River Valley Livestock Association, Red River Valley Dairymen's Association, Crops and Soils Association, Boys’ and Girls’ Club Conference, Red River Valley Development Association, Northwest School of Agriculture Alumni, the Seventh District Women’s Clubs, the Northwest Minnesota Press Association and the Northwest annual meetings at the Winter Shows.

Today there is so much other activity of a general nature that the organizations tend to have their annual meetings at less busy times of the year. While they might get together for a banquet or some social event, meetings at the time of the Winter Shows by commodity or breed-related groups aren't scheduled.

The Red River Valley Development Association, however, still holds its annual meeting, where it merely reorganizes for the year ahead. The