Winter Shows board of managers will schedule a full meeting during the latter part of the show to evaluate and record observations and make corrections as they look ahead to another year. Most other planning groups tend to meet at other times. For instance, in the women’s division, very shortly after the show was closed, the women’s division committee will meet to evaluate and begin planning for another year. The women’s committee has established a system of committee membership which rotates. They plan well, with experienced committee persons, and bring in new members regularly.

Governmental Involvement - The Winter Shows became an early focal point for discussion of governmental affairs. This idea began at the time of World War I with a group known as the Crookston Association of Public Affairs, which really carried on for nearly a 30-year period. This was the group that invited legislators, congressmen, governors, the secretary of agriculture and other notable leaders to visit the Winter Shows. As local leadership changed, the invitation and sponsoring of public affairs events became part of the managing and arrangements by the Winter Shows board of managers, beginning about the mid 1950’s. The Experiment Station, the School of Agriculture, and now the college have assisted. Today a noon luncheon is held to which Chambers of Commerce ag committees in the area and top state and federal government officials are invited, not only to be at the luncheon and share observations and concerns with the people and react to questions from the audience, but also to see the Show and visit with people informally. This opportunity for dialogue is valued by those in government and those who live here locally. The senators, representatives, and legislators would prefer to come and be quite free to visit at the Show and talk informally, rather than meet with particular pressure groups waiting to make specific requests.

The board of managers has a challenge here, and a great opportunity to invite legislators from outside of the Valley and expose them to the agriculture and way of life in this great northwest section of the State.

Music and song were missed by the pioneers out on the land. Sing-alongs were introduced before the lectures to satisfy this need. These were an inspiring part of every program. The Department of Music at the Northwest School of Agriculture provided great choral and sing-along leadership. Lucile Holiday, Ann Simley and A.H. Larson are among those who are dear to the hearts of people who lived in the 1920’s and 1930’s. Newspaper reports suggest that “the rafters rocked” with the singing of the audience as they joined in the national anthem, popular ballads, and the famous Red River Valley song. In fact, there was a special song created called “The Farm Crop Show”, which was sung with a great deal of gusto.

Another feature of several shows was the pageant where historical developments would be acted on the stage. C.G. Selvig was a great writer of pageants, assisted by other members of the community and of the staff of the Northwest School of Agriculture. The pageants were then produced by 4-H groups or by groups organized at as well as sing for events including celebrity speakers. The late T.W. Thorson directed this group for nearly twenty years—the last concert celebrated the dedication of the new facility north of Crookston in 1962.