resented Valley-wide commodity and farm-related organizations. Except for a few years in the late 1940's, this rather loosely organized board of managers has planned and operated the Red River Valley Winter Shows annually, even though the title to the buildings belonged to the Red River Valley Livestock Association.

In the 1940's, problems developed within the governing body of the Winter Shows. The board of managers was an organization of commodity groups and agricultural agencies joined informally for the common welfare of the Winter Shows. They succeeded in organizing grass roots volunteer committees in the original ten counties and swelling the number to 14 counties by the 1930's. The Northwest School and Experiment Station grew greatly in influence and respect, especially in the Red River Basin and even across the State and was noted for its top-level professional people and the caliber of leadership each one brought to a particular area of expertise, as in soils, agronomy, livestock, or horticulture. These leaders then became the "government in being" behind the scenes for the annual Winter Shows.

As sometimes happens in loosely knit organizations, it's easier to do the job of planning and leadership yourself than to go out and maintain that very important level of volunteer leadership out at the grass roots. That kind of situation nearly resulted in the demise of the Red River Valley Winter Shows. In 1948 the 30-year charter of the livestock group expired, and a move was made to declare the Red River Valley Livestock Association, Inc. as illegal with no state charter. While the Show kept rolling each year, it took a protracted lawsuit to settle the issue, which finally ended up in the State Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the Red River Valley Winter Shows Board of Managers.

Before the lawsuit, some explanation is helpful. The last of the three buildings built after World War I was built in 1920. The Livestock Association raised some serious questions as to whether they ought to be involved in building a building for an industrial show. The fund raising fizzled. The banks loaned money to build the major portion of the industrial building, and it wasn't paid off until 1940. The Livestock Association was liable for paying the debts, as they had title to the buildings even though all organizations had helped raise the money. Income to the Livestock Association from renting the structures didn't make full payments on the principal. The board of managers handled the modest income from tickets and concession booths which barely paid expenses of the show. Thus, there was a situation where misunderstandings could and did develop. Further detail on the lawsuit is noted in Chapter 11.

With the lawsuit settled, the board of managers went to work forthwith and officially incorporated under Minnesota nonprofit laws with appropriate articles of incorporation and bylaws. Generally the articles called for carrying on the work of the Show and related activities with a broad enough charge to meet the changing scene in agricultural production. The articles did place additional emphasis on the participation of any Valley-wide commodity organization or other related farm institutions who wished to have a person on the board of managers by making application. Such application was considered on its merits and voted upon. The original articles of incorporation have been amended officially and the amendments lodged with the Secretary of State on two occasions since that time.

In 1960 the articles were adjusted to include additional agricultural organizations. This action provided for a membership of no fewer than nine on the board, a number divisible by three, and one-third to be elected each year. The amendment was necessary when the new building program was being funded and when a great deal of interest on the part of several Valley-wide organizations expressed interest in the government of the Show. Organizations at that time which were expressing an interest were the Vo Ag Teachers Association, the Soil Conservation Districts, the Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, NFO, Potato Growers Association, the Sugarbeet Growers Association, and the Minnesota Crop Improvement Association.

Again, in 1972 the official articles were amended, adding appropriate language to the articles needed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue so that anyone giving funds to the Red River Valley Winter Shows could fit under the new laws which regulated charitable and educational giving. Further, the amendment provided that if the Winter Shows as an organization is ever dissolved the assets shall pass on to an organization providing similar charitable and educational service to society.

Since the first set was drawn up in 1953, the bylaws have been changed several times to fit the changing scene.

Summer meeting of the Crops and Soils Association in 1924. A picnic, a look at crop variety plots, and some planning for the next crop show were on the agenda.