out in the county, aided by the county extension director. They are chosen for stable management of their farming enterprise, for solid family capabilities, for their service to community and government, for their service to their church, and for their stewardship over the soil and water resources. The Agricultural Extension Service is the key cooperating organization which facilitates this project at a high level year after year.

The King Agassiz project was started by the Development Association 24 years ago. This was a project in which the Winter Shows wished to recognize the young couples or single individuals here in northwest Minnesota who are coming up the ladder of leadership and civic responsibility. Here again, the county kings are selected by their peers in each county and are recognized as a County King Agassiz during the county fairs or other events. These county kings and their spouses come to the Red River Valley Winter Shows where they compete for the title of King Agassiz of the Winter Shows. The king is then the representative of the Winter Shows for the year ahead in various affairs and events in the region. The project has succeeded well, with the emerging leadership rising to the top each year. They have now formed their own association for fellowship and service purposes to Winter Shows.

The most recent human resource effort is the Builder of the Valley Award. Here the Development Association recognizes the quiet but yet substantive grassroots citizen who shows personal growth in the region. The judging group is interested in the kind of people who provide unusual and extended leadership in their sector of the Valley. The committee looks for a person who has made a substantial contribution to the community, the state and the nation as well as who has the ability to make a living for himself and his family. Two such awards have been given to date and may not be presented each year. A committee from the board studies the candidates carefully in terms of the criteria which have been established.

The fourth human resource program is that of supporting youth programs, including expenses for plaques and premiums for demonstrations and contests.

Another major effort of the Development Association is furnishing premium monies for Crop Show winners each year. The Association continues to provide continuing and dependable cooperative support to the Red River Valley Winter Shows.

*Red River Valley Livestock Association* -- This group was formed in the second decade around the time of World War I when livestock raising became a more prominent part of the Winter Shows. The livestock scientists of the Northwest Experiment Station provided the leadership for the organization of livestock breeders of the region and have actually been part of the association in one form or another continuously. The Livestock Association was incorporated under Minnesota Laws in 1918 and began to assume responsibility for the livestock show section of the Winter Shows. There was strong feeling among agricultural leaders that livestock had to be part of the developing farming scene here.

The armory was in the process of being planned and built in downtown Crookston beginning in 1914. It was natural for people up and down the Valley to envision that some facilities for Winter Shows next to the armory would be useful to the fast-growing Winter Shows. At that time the Winter Shows was planned and operations were handled by an informal committee, the strongest cooperators being the Red River Valley Development Association, the University, and the businessmen from Crookston. About 1916 there wasn’t sufficient room any place in downtown Crookston for holding the fast-growing Livestock Show, including sheep, beef and horses. Then in addition, there was the Dairy Show encouraged and