build anyway." The building was built and the first Industrial Show in the new building was held in 1921.

By the time the money-raising had been completed in the early 1920's, about $70,000 had been raised for the three buildings, and when all the construction was completed in 1921, several thousand dollars was owed on the project. For several years, new producers at the Livestock Show were required to purchase a membership share or shares, but these didn't amount to the kind of money it takes to build buildings. Only the interest was paid on the borrowed capital for many years. There was a fire loss in the mid-1930's, and additional monies had to be borrowed to make the repair, for the insurance was not adequate. Finally in 1940, the balance against the capital investment in this first set of three Winter Shows buildings was paid off with a burning of the mortgage ceremony held at the annual board meeting.

The second major financial drive was held in 1959-60. Before the campaign for funds, several meetings were held in the region. The people of the Valley generally encouraged the board of managers, agreeing that a Winter Shows facility was needed. "Tell us what you need; we'll help" was the inspiring answer. The board of managers consulted with fund-raising expertise before launching the drive for funds. A goal of $450,000 was set. Every member serving on the board had initially pledged the first dollars.

The campaign in Crookston and immediate surrounding area was conducted next and produced approximately half the total funds raised in cash and pledges. The counties outside of West Polk County kicked off their campaign at Breckenridge in late 1959. Wilkin County was the first to go over the top with its fund drive.

Agri-businesses up and down the Red River Basin were generous. The Minkota Electric Cooperative set aside $15,000 over a three-year period, and Agsco, Inc. was the first agri-business organization to pledge one percent of the goal of $450,000. Several agri-business leaders in the Twin Cities raised about $20,000 at two luncheon engagements arranged for the purpose of hearing the story about the Winter Shows project. The outside county campaign continued longer than the board of managers anticipated and really wasn't completed before late 1960. The Board had adopted a policy that they would not pro-

ceed with any construction on the building until the financial campaign was well wrapped up. About $330,000 was finally raised by pledges and cash contributions from 3,000 farmers and agri-business people. Their names are all inscribed on a memorial plaque in the south arena of the Winter Shows facilities. Those in charge were able to proceed full speed ahead by 1961, engaging an architect and traveling about the country looking at exposition buildings. Finally the Behlen Manufacturing Company, a manufacturer of farm buildings and large steel buildings, expressed an interest in providing architectural service. In the final analysis they had by far the lowest bid on the building as planned and designed. The board of managers were rounded criticized for letting the contract to a builder outside the confines of the Red River Basin. When, however, the critics understood all the facts, the complaints changed from occasional sniping to compliments for a job well done.

The building was built in 1961 and readied for the 1962 show on land purchased from the University of Minnesota bordering the city of Crookston on the northwest. History has a way of repeating. The board of managers erred on some details. The housing for the Livestock Association was again a problem as it was in 1919. The board of managers had about expended their credit line. The Livestock Association came to the rescue by pledging support to assist the board of managers. This decision resulted in building the west pole barn in 1962 and the connecting barn between the west pole barn and the arena in 1964. Money was borrowed from the Valley Bank in Grand Forks with the personal guarantees of William Strickler and Bernie Youngquist on the note. (It seems the banker needed an expression of faith by those who were quite close to the scene). The pledges and cash raised by the campaign and the sale of the buildings in downtown Crookston were insufficient to cover the new project. The land and main arena cost about $460,000 and the pole barns about $19,000. The Behlen Manufacturing Company, through their Omaha bank, carried a mortgage on the arena for the balance due. The local banks assumed some small short-term notes for certain equipment, and the Valley Bank at Grand Forks carried the note renewable annually on the livestock pole barns.

The first mortgage and the short-term notes were refinanced in 1965 for $175,000. This financing was worked out at a low rate of interest and distributed among 20 banks in the Red River Valley, including Grand Forks, North Dakota. Some banks, figuring it was another contribution, believed they'd never get their money back. Payments on the interest and principal continued without default yearly, and by the time the new wing was built on the north side, the board of managers was several years ahead of schedule on principal payments.

The third campaign for building needs started with dialogue in 1974. There was a long list of concessioners wanting to buy space at the Winter