and showing of calves, pigs, and sheep, but also to create in the Futurity members a desire to build up purebred herds and flocks in the Red River Valley.

Pete May, a county agent in the Valley, was the superintendent in 1950. Oscar Nelson, county agent from Mahnomen, provided leadership for 1951 and 1952. Harley Shurson, county agent for East Polk County, was the chairman of the Futurity Committee and superintendent of the Futurity Show from the early 1950's until he retired recently. The total number of purebred animals in the Futurity Show number anywhere from 140 to 200, depending upon the year. The original idea of the committee envisioned that youngsters who had never handled livestock might get started in the business. As the idea finally evolved over several years, however, the Futurity Show became a strong force in persuading parents who were livestock breeders to urge their children to become part of the livestock business. Children grew their own animals as part of the family business, entered their livestock in the Futurity Show, as well as helped Mom and Dad show other stock in the Open Show. Harley Shurson, long-time superintendent of the show, can point to a number of livestock breeders today who were launched in the business with the useful early experiences and encouragement of the Futurity Show. The Futurity Show is another example of people doing something themselves, providing an event or an experience which strengthens industry, in this case livestock industry.

THE WINTER HORSE SHOW

The showing of horses at the Winter Shows goes back to 1917 when draft horses were first shown. This practice continued sporadically into the early 1930's when the gasoline tractor replaced horses on the farm scene and the draft horse competition was dropped. In the early 1960's, however, a 4-H Pony Show was held in the old livestock pavilion in downtown Crookston. The place was filled to the rafters. An era at the Winter Shows was reborn. This time the showing wasn't draft horses. The attraction was recreational horses, a recognition of a fast-growing interest by farmers and non-farmers.

Gleanings from the history of the Red River Valley Winter Horse Shows follow, with the help of Gene Miller of the Northwest Agricultural Experiment Station and Herb Maurtson, member of the board of managers, both representatives of the Red River Valley Horse Breeders Association. The first full weekend Horse Show was staged beginning Friday, February 28, 1964. A beginning had been made in the two previous years with the farm service concession booths in place. While it was a beginning, neither the light horse breeders nor the farm service concessioners were happy. A mounted saddle group from Fargo-Moorhead assisted the Crookston Horse Show enthusiasts in these first one-day events in 1962 and 1963.

A long narrow corridor of rough lumber had been erected between the new Winter Shows arena and the livestock pole barn to the west. In order to get a running start for the pole and barrel events, the horsemen would race through the corridor under the roof, which barely cleared their western hats. One horse and rider combination slipped on the concrete threshold coming in the west door and took a bad spill into the arena.

The first three-day Winter Horse Show planning was long on enthusiasm and short on experience. No one knew how long it would take to clear the entire arena of commercial exhibits and prepare for the Horse Show. Horsemen arriving early pitched in and helped the concessioners dismantle their booths and carry out exhibit and display materials. Horse Show people came from many parts of two states. Again the pioneering spirit, ready to tackle a project with many unknowns, came through.

Show officials for this first major show included Gene Miller, Crookston, show manager; Dietrich Reimer, superintendent; Mrs. Henry Rogers, secretary of the Appaloosa division; Ben J. Layton, secretary of Quarter-horse division; Helen Leikness, secretary, Open Show; and Dora Brown, secretary, Arabian division. The horse breeds at the first Show included the American Quarterhorse, Appaloosa, and Arabian in the registered classes. Saddle club queens participated in the show. Elaine Reitmeier was the queen, representing the Agassiz Club, Juanita Bonesack (rodeo queen from North Dakota), Kathy Kiel (North Dakota Quarterhorse Association), Sylvia Laske (Miss Garrison Dam queen), Shannon Rees (North Dakota High School Rodeo queen), Maryann Thompson (North Dakota Appaloosa queen), Fay Thompson (North Dakota Arabian Association queen), Kathy Thomas (North Dakota State University rodeo queen), and Kathy Thoen (Minnesota High School Rodeo queen). Beginning then and continuing to the present, rodeo queens from saddle clubs and other organizations have staged the famous "Queen Ride" to open each session of the Winter Horse Show program.

It was obvious from this first big show that the local Crookston horse enthusiasts couldn't be expected to manage this growing event. Gene Miller called a group of horsemen together, including Dietrich Reimer, animal scientist at the Northwest Experiment Station; Ben Layton, Hawley; Dora Brown, Kelso, ND; Bill Morrow, Dilworth; Arnold Miller,