legislators participating with the singing of the United States and Canadian National Anthems.

Professional entertainment programs have been scheduled from time to time, featuring such performers as Joe Feeney of the Lawrence Welk Show, the Emeralds from Nashville, Tennessee, and Luther Bjerve, the wild Norwegian from Grand Forks.

A recent special event is organized and sponsored by the bankers of the Red River Valley, who provide funding to find a nationally recognized expert to speak to the agricultural industry in the Valley. The first speaker was Orion Samuelson of WGN TV in Chicago, whose filming of the Winter Shows was seen on over 100 TV stations across the country and who addressed nearly 2,000 people in the Technical College gymnasium.

High school bands were featured each day for a number of years until their school programs became too crowded for participation at the Winter Shows.

A draft horse pull was added to the program in 1983 under the able leadership of Dr. Gary McVey of the Technical College. This event plays to a full house every year.

A western rodeo was a special event for two years under the encouragement of Vern Hagen of East Grand Forks.

A major TV network in cooperation with KXJB TV taped a program "What's on Your Mind" with Winter Shows visitors in 1984.

A concessioners' bean feed and/or coffee reception has been sponsored by city officials and Winter Shows Board to say thank you to exhibitors.

The government day luncheon with show officials, national and state legislators, city, county and community elected government bodies, and major agricultural producers and farm organizations is an unusual opportunity for meaningful fellowship and dialogue. The agribusiness committee of the Crookston Chamber of Commerce cooperates with the board of managers to stage this event.

More than one Secretary of Agriculture from Washington, D.C. have visited. Vice presidents of the United States have been special guests. The annual visit by officials from the North Dakota Winter Shows at Valley City facilitates an exchange of ideas.

The foregoing list isn't inclusive of all events but gives a picture of the variety of interests served at the Winter Shows today.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

The official program for the first annual Short Course planned for farm families at the Northwest School and Experiment Station in 1910 has as much space given to the women's educational program as that for the men. The importance of the crucial family partnership in farming was recognized in those pioneering efforts in rural education for adults. This has continued throughout the history of the Red River Valley Winter Shows.

The early programming was almost entirely planned by the home economics faculty of the Northwest School of Agriculture. In time, leaders from various farm clubs and federated women's groups were active for a few years in the planning process. Later, as home economics agents became part of the county extension service, these well-trained educators volunteered to provide stability and updated expertise to the women's planning committee.

Today, the women's division remains strong. It is representative of rural women and has probably one of the best-organized regional committees to plan, integrate, and conduct the feminine section of the show each year. The ladies' planning committee has a representative on the board of managers. For more detail see Chapter 6.

POULTRY AND PET SHOW

Details of the development of the show have been provided by Harold Thomford, Crookston and are included in Chapter 6. The Poultry and Pet Show today is a very popular part of the show. Children, especially, enjoy the animals and birds. Poultry producers and fanciers continue to compete.

LIGHT HORSE MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTION - U OF M TECHNICAL COLLEGE

The educational arm of the University located at Crookston has always figured strongly in providing expertise for several facets of the Winter Shows and this leadership continues today. One difference today is that the University of Minnesota Technical College makes direct use of the Winter Shows facilities in its educational programming. Quoting from Gary C. McVey, head of the Division of Agriculture:

"The light horse management program of the University of Minnesota, Crookston, has utilized the facilities of the Red River Valley Winter Shows since 1972. When the program began, it was located in the Red River Valley Winter Shows barns located west of the south arena. During several summers, the program utilized the old Agassiz Riders Club barn which was located where the new College stable facility is today."

McVey continues, "In 1977, an idea was developed in which the Red River Valley Winter Shows would extend their educational thrust in northwestern Minnesota by building a stable and an arena usable as a teaching-riding laboratory. The stable and arena would be leased by the Technical College. Accordingly, the