Since 1978, the College has leased the new stable for housing the horses and the north arena as an educational teaching laboratory. In addition, the College rents the ten-acre parking lot to the west of the buildings for an exercise area and for limited pasture. The College also leased a piece of land from the National Guard and has established an outdoor riding arena and exercise standard. This has proved to be an excellent arrangement for the College and the students majoring in light horse management.

A first class stabling and training facility has been provided, with no building investment cost to the taxpayers of the State of Minnesota. Instead, local institutions cooperated to provide this useful, educational facility for studies of the Technical College. Several workshops and club shows under the auspices of the College are held in the facilities during the year.

FOOD SERVICE
The food service concession in the new facilities north of Crookston has always been maintained by the board of managers. Their policy is to maximize the profits from the food service to assist in meeting the capital debt each year. The food service facilities have been improved from time to time. Currently, the public seems reasonably happy with the short-order type of service provided.

There is a policy against admitting concessioners who make food service their major activity. One booth has been permitted, the 4-H group of West Polk County, where the 4-H’ers and their leaders can set up a booth to sell ice cream to show visitors as a club fund-raising project. Otherwise, all food service is a function of the Winter Shows board of managers. Many visitors to the Winter Shows are on a midwinter outing and may wish for more than the short order service available at the arena. The city of Crookston has several excellent dining facilities which are well patronized by show visitors.

The large floor space of the arenas and barns has developed some use between each Winter Show. March is popular for farm sales. Financial organizations suggest that a farm sale this time of the year in the Winter Shows building will increase the income from their sales more than enough to pay the moving cost and renting the arena.

Several educational functions of rather substantive influence are held annually, including the International Sugarbeet Growers Institute, sugarbeet growers from Minnesota, North Dakota and Manitoba and the largest of its kind in the USA. The Red River Valley Beef Cattlemen’s Institute is the largest single beef cattle educational function in any part of the Red River Basin annually. The College, too, conducts light horse management clinics and training activities. A Home and Hobby Show was recently held and was successful at its first try in 1984. The regional high schools and some colleges rent the space for training and holding track meets in the spring each year, as weather in the Red River Basin isn’t always conducive to outside track activity.

Any group may contract to lease the buildings, providing their use fits the facilities available in the building and is in keeping with the general mission of the Winter Shows. The facilities were built for the Winter Shows exposition and may not be suited to all needs.

The Winter Shows properties belong to all the people in northwestern Minnesota. Consequently, the rental fees are modest; however, any group renting the facility must contract for such use, must carry its own insurance, and must pay the modest rental fee plus the costs of janitorial help, lights, heat, and maintenance.

Fun at the Winter Shows. Tug-o’-war is spirited fun for the muscular.