The Red River Valley Development Association has presented two "Builder of the Valley" awards in recent years. Mr. Edgar Hetteen (left), Thief River Falls, developer of the snowmobile, inventor of the straw chopper for modern grain combines, among many accomplishments, was honored with his wife, Hannah. Mr. Melvin Ouse, Rothsay, MN, farmer, REA leader, flying farmer, strong family leader among many other leadership roles and his wife, Celia, were the most recent so honored. Both recipients received a personalized plaque memorializing their contributions and grassroots leadership as Builders of the Red River Valley.

area. Keynote speakers include industrial leaders, university presidents, governors, senators, congressmen, authors, state legislators, and farmers. A complete banquet is tastefully and efficiently served, and a beautiful, personally engraved plaque is presented by the Red River Valley Development Association.

Here again, the service leadership of University personnel must be noted. The superintendent and staff of the Northwest School and Experiment Station have, under the Development Association committee, looked after the legwork and details of arranging the banquet affair year after year. This University group adds permanence and smoothness of operation to the event. The leadership of the extension director in each county adds that necessary expertise, and the involvement of the board studies the recommendations for this award in detail. The honor is awarded to farmers or those who provide services and who live in northwestern Minnesota. It is the policy of the board of directors to give the award from time to time and not necessarily annually. A project committee from the board studies all the recommendations for this award in detail. Recommendations of the project committee are then acted on by the full board of the Minnesota Red River Valley Development Association for final decision. So far two such awards have been given.

BUILDING OF THE VALLEY AWARD

The Winter Shows has always been characterized by an element of vitality, a sort of a forceful aggressiveness throughout its history, despite the loosely structured organization. New ideas are tried. Some fail and others continue. In more recent years a deliberate effort has been made to seek public opinion and reactions during the ten-day show. The "Red Jacket Boys", the board members, circulate among the crowd of visitors, listening and questioning. Planning committees and a variety of cooperating organization boards are doing more evaluating each year. Emerging from such dialogue comes the remodeling of old ideas and the trying of new ideas. In such an evaluation session by the board of the Red River Development Association about four years ago was born the Builder of the Valley honors idea. It took about two years to develop and adopt the Builder of the Valley Award project. As a reminder to the reader, the Minnesota Red River Valley Development Association is a nonprofit corporation representing the 14 counties in northwestern Minnesota. Their major purpose is to encourage resource development through the Winter Shows. The Builder of the Valley Award was developed to recognize unusual grassroots leadership and creativity which have contributed significantly to the quality of life on land in the Red River Basin and beyond.

The award is intended to be among the top honors given at the Winter Shows. It recognizes people who work quietly, and through their steadiness, creativity, and community involvement do build the quality of life economically, socially, and spiritually. The honor is awarded to farmers or those who provide services and who live in northwestern Minnesota. It is the policy of the board of directors to give the award from time to time and not necessarily annually. A project committee from the board studies all the recommendations for this award in detail. Recommendations of the project committee are then acted on by the full board of the Minnesota Red River Valley Development Association for final decision. So far two such awards have been given.

KING AGASSIZ PROJECT

During the late 1950's the quiet but forceful enthusiasm of the board of managers and fund-raising task forces (all volunteers) out in each county