WINTER SHOWS HALL OF FAME
Without a doubt, the freewill service of hundreds of citizens is what produces the Winter Shows each year. The many who give a few minutes to a few hours of time and energy are led by other volunteers who provide days and weeks of leadership service. The board of managers wondered whether there might not be some way to honor such dedicated leadership. In the early 1960’s the group suggested that any person having given long-time and unusual service to the Winter Shows should be recognized with due explanation at an appropriate meeting or banquet at the Shows. A personally engraved plaque would be presented.

A total of 54 citizen-leader-servants have been honored to date. A list is provided in the appendix.

The original Hall of Fame committee appointed by the board of managers included George Nornes, chairperson; Harold Thomforde, B.E. Youngquist, and Paul Brekken. Nominations are made by the board of managers annually.

A change in definition was made in 1968 when a citizen-leader might be honored for volunteer leadership in the Red River Basin for other reasons besides Winter Shows.

SENIOR CITIZEN DAY
The Winter Shows without question has something for everyone, and senior citizens are not overlooked. They are included in the programming and the service activity of the women’s division. They come in by the busload from all parts of the region. The board of managers reduces the price of their tickets at the door, and the women’s division committee always has something interesting for those who want to visit together and tour the show.

HORSEBREEDER’S HALL OF FAME
The Red River Valley Horsebreeders established a program honoring those who provide planning and service to the Horse Show. They have done a good job of recognizing volunteer service. Plaque presentations are made at suitable ceremonies, and a gallery of pictures of people so honored is maintained in the Winter Shows Arena by the Association.

TO SUMMARIZE
The quality of life in the Red River Basin depends much on the values, activities, and stewardship of people who live on the land here. The Red River Valley Winter Shows board of managers places highest priority on those programs of the midwinter shows which recognize and encourage the kind of human resources which enhance the quality of life in northwestern Minnesota and beyond.

The late Carl Ash was a leader in extension education for the Red River Valley, a respected friend of the farmer and a trusted leader among leaders. He is an example of the solid foundations undergirding the 75-year-old Winter Shows.