dous change was taking place in agriculture. Agri-educational program and exhibits focused on new crops and crop varieties with herbicides, insecticides, fertilizers, farm machinery and equipment, farm storage, grain drying, livestock feeding and breeding, and overall management. As I look back over the history of the past 75 years, it would be hard to visualize a February in the Red River Valley without people making plans to participate in this very worthwhile event which even though led by volunteers has met the challenges of the changes over time.

Juel and Leona Torvi. Juel Torvi was a farm foreman at the Northwest Experiment Station for some 35 years and was one of the Station staff members who did a lot of legwork getting things ready for the show each year.

My first show was the winter of 1926. Our work then as well as for many years was to move all necessary equipment and supplies for running the show including chairs, cabinets, typewriters, files, and the like to downtown Crookston for the full week of the show and then move it all back to the Experiment Station. Many of the meetings were held out at the School of Agriculture and another job was to keep the entrance open which was quite a challenge in stormy weather. In those days we used a team of horses and an eight foot wooden scraper made in the carpenter shop. One man would hold the scraper and the other man would drive the team. There were evening meetings and the snow-removal days sometimes were sixteen hours of wading around in the deep snow. If a real big storm came along, the Highway Department would help open the entrance. Later a caterpillar was purchased and then in the 50's a snowblower was added on the John Deere R tractor and we thought we were in heaven. A large surplus airport type snowblower was acquired and used to clear snow on the Winter Shows ground after the new buildings were built.

The Station farm crew did a lot of legwork; meeting trains in the earlier years and planes in the later years, assisting with holding of livestock for judging contests and the other chores necessary for the show to go on in good shape. In 1927, farmers brought in horses to be judged in the show for draft horses. None of the horses from the Station were entered in the horse show. The Percheron mares from the Experiment Station were brought in for judging contests, however. Room for livestock was at a premium. There wasn’t any place to house the horses inside, so we had to keep them out in the street and tie them up on a hayrack. This was a problem in below zero and stormy weather. They were restless and hard to control. One person from the Experiment Station farm crew had to stay on hand and keep the horses under control. In 1928 I helped put on a big hitch demonstration by a horse judge from Canada. We used four stubtailed Percheron mares tandem on a heavy sled. They wrapped log chains around the back runners to keep it from sliding too easy.

In the early 1920's, the Northwest Experiment Station dairy herdsmen would always show dairy cattle at the show. This was discontinued in the 1930's. Mrs. Torvi worked with the Trinity Lutheran Church Ladies Aid. These church ladies did an outstanding job of serving food at the Winter Shows, serving from 6 in the morning until 10 in the evening. They served coffee, donuts, pies, cookies, and the best hamburgers and baked beans. The story is told that the new Trinity Lutheran Church mortgage had a large portion paid off with money earned at the Red River Valley Winter Shows food concession by the Trinity Lutheran Church Ladies Aid.

The increasing dependence on the foreign export of food and fiber to maintain the financial vitality of agriculture in the Valley requires new approaches of communicating to the political representatives the needs of the agricultural community. There needs to be more emphasis placed on the importance of international trade and in providing high quality educational services in the elementary through post-secondary areas in our sparsely populated Valley. More program time needs to be devoted to the environment of the Red River Valley, including the effects of using large quantities of chemical, bare land farming systems and how these relate to the soil movement, human health and so forth. Specialty crops and agricultural financing need increased attention.

Dr. Gary C. McVey, Head of the Division of Agriculture for the University of Minnesota Technical College, and member of the board of managers.

Dr. McVey suggests that as the Red River Valley-Winter Shows looks down the road, the program emphasis needs to continue strong in the area of crop and soil technology, livestock production, chemical fertilizer use, and farm management. For the future we need to be more concerned with how life is lived in the Red River Valley Basin. We have a decreasing number of people actually living on farms and a slightly increasing number of people living in towns but dependent on agriculture for their livelihood.

The story is told that the new Trinity Lutheran Church mortgage had a large portion paid off with money earned at the Red River Valley Winter Shows food concession by the Trinity Lutheran Church Ladies Aid.