Ted Peet, retired farmer from Wolverton, who led the fundraising forces in Wilkin County for the new facilities and served on the Winter Shows board of managers.

The Red River Valley Winter Shows surely has an interesting history surviving a fire in 1935, blizzards, depression of the 1930's, and two world wars, but still the show never missed a year.

The Winter Shows is unique in that it encompasses a large relatively rich agricultural area which was once nothing but a big lake. It gives the people there a chance to think of this area as a whole and discuss the success of agriculture in the past as well as to look to new challenges in the future. It is good to look to the past to learn from experiences.

The most exciting challenge though is in the future. The thought on most people's minds is where do we go from here. People attend the Winter Shows for many reasons. The most important, however, is that it is a place to go to find new ideas. People of the Valley have always been looking for ways to better their way of life. The shows of the past 75 years have provided such an opportunity. I'd like to share an outline looking to the future.

1. Short-term objectives of one to five years.
   A. Changes needed next year.
   B. Changes necessary during the next five years (this may include

facilities and other immediate changes that should be made.

2. Long-term objectives (more indefinite but looking 10 to 20 years) but
   is one that is a great challenge.

3. A. Genetics -- impact on agriculture.
   B. Space age -- impact on agriculture.
   C. Computers -- impact on agriculture.
   D. Implications of world trade.
   E. Conservation of our soil resource.
   F. Marketing agricultural products -- should the local elevator join
   others to provide more clout?
   G. Recreations -- The Winter Shows is an excellent place to
   focus on new concepts and the emphasis on the front line cutting
   edge idea should continue in the future.

Marvin R. Campbell, retired banker and member of the board of managers during those difficult years of financing new buildings, land, and facilities.

I came to Crookston in 1955 as president of the First National Bank and it wasn't long after arriving that I realized the importance of the Red River Valley Winter Shows to the community and to the area which it serves. Since plans were already in progress for the next show to be held in February of the year I arrived, I'll never forget the crowded corners, the limited space, the poor air conditions that existed in the buildings on Main Street utilized for the show for many years. It was at that time I became aware that something had to happen with the Winter Shows facility.

I also recall the fund drive which was begun to raise funds in the very early 50's. The short Swede, Bernie Youngquist, came on the scene and it was good to have him aboard. The Crookston community and the regions served by the Winter Shows were generous with their contributions and financial support. The new facility was built and ready for use in 1962. It's hard to believe that nearly 40,000 people go through that place now in ten days.

I was elected to the board about the time that the problem began to be identified with financing the project. New management had been acquired in an attempt to develop more income during the periods of time when the building was not in use. These efforts not only failed but they complicated the existing financial problems to the point where foreclosure by the Omaha Bank holding the mortgage was threatened, with the other communities vying for the Winter Shows because of our vexing problems. We owed about $143,000 on the building and that was accumulating interest at 12 percent. Financial obligations developed with our local merchants. Current bills were past due. The buildings downtown were sold but the income was a lot less than anticipated. When the future looked about as bleak as we had seen it for many months and years, the board wisely selected Paul Brekke, to be their manager. Commencing with this action, the board suggested that the loan to the Omaha Bank, together with the outstanding current short-term debt, be refinanced by a cooperative participation of area banks and other financial institutions. My first reaction to the idea was negative. I didn't realize that the shows would continue to be supported under the circumstances which existed at the time. Loan documents were prepared by legal counsel, Leonard Erickson, with the help of Harold Thomforde and others on the board, I was able to sell the program of participating loans based on each individual financial institution's assets. After much effort and a little arm twisting, the entire loan participation was committed.