as business administrator for Agri-
Energy, Inc., George serves as presi-
dent of the board of managers and is
chairman of the special events com-
mittee. Few volunteers have such a
distinguished record of long-time and
outstanding service to the Winter
Shows.

The early years of the Winter Shows
brought together people from the Red
River Valley for educational meetings,
for fellowship, for a chance to ex-
change their pioneer experiences.
They came to make family life more
meaningful. Basically, this has not
changed greatly in 75 years. The
change to the advanced technology of
today and the idea that agriculture is
more than farming has added to the
scope; yet the reason for existence of
the Winter Shows remains the same.

Probably the most important aspect of
life in the Red River Valley as encour-
aged by the Winter Shows is the
family unit. Those early communities
held together by close ties of families,
community activities and their church
made small settlements in the Valley
and look with pride on their home-
town. The Red River Valley Winter
Shows gave these small groups an
opportunity to expand their horizon.
They had a place to go once each year
to meet new friends and to visit old
and to actually enjoy many family
reunions. The Red River Valley Winter
Shows then became a community
away from home that they could take
pride in being part of the mutual
respect and faith which grew out of
the activities of the Winter Shows.

The Winter Shows has always kept up
with the changing times and it will do
the same in the future. Nearly 40,000
people look to the ten-day event for
opportunity to learn, to making the
best even better. They expect some-
thing new, and the Winter Shows
seminars, programs and shows and
exhibits will need to continue to pro-
vide that for them. The board of ma-
nagers will need to look toward more
and/or improved space or more effi-
cient use of the present space in order
to get the total program under one
roof. Really we cannot look to a much
greater attendance at the shows in
terms of the number of different
people attending but we will need to
provide the kind of environment that
will cause people to come to the show
daily for most of the ten-day exposi-
tion so they don’t miss out on the

chance to upgrade knowledge and to
enhance their way of living, mentally,
physically, and spiritually.

The King Agassiz program started
with the idea of having a young agri-
culturalist, farmer or one who services
farmers, of the Valley region reign for
one year as an ambassadorial symbol
for the Winter Shows. Too, the person
named is one who symbolizes the
modern complex agricultural business
of northwestern Minnesota. The
above objective has not changed since
those early days. The procedures have
changed over the past 25 years includ-
ing the upgrading of the selection
procedures, the inception of the
County King Agassiz Association,
which is comprised of all the past
county kings, and the schedule of
commitments necessary for the kings
in the local counties, Red River Valley
and state to meet increasing interest
and demand for these young men to
appear at fairs, banquets, parades and
the like. The King Agassiz program
has changed its procedures, but its
original objective remains that of rec-
ognizing young citizens coming up the
ladder of leadership here in north-
western Minnesota and providing op-
portunities for them to grow and de-
velop.

Vocational agriculture and the Future
Farmers of America have been a bene-
factor and a beneficiary of the Red
River Valley Winter Shows. Some of
the high schools that offered vo-ag
and FFA in the 1930’s such as Warren,
Climax, Fertile and McIntosh, partici-
pated in Winter Shows activities. Vo-
cational agriculture programs as an
integral part of the curriculum re-
quired learning by doing, lab types of
experiences on their home farm and
educational experiences such as were
provided by the Winter Shows. Judg-
ing contests in livestock were the first
opportunities at the Winter Shows. Later, crops judging and identification
were added.

As ideas progressed and the curri-
culum changed, opportunities such as
cow clipping demonstrations, public
speaking, meats judging and identifi-
cation, potato judging, livestock
futurity shows, poultry and horse
judging, were made available to FFA
members. Adult and young farmer
education classes are also an integral
part of the total vocational agriculture
programs of the area high schools.
And these classes often had livestock
judging teams entered in competition.
These adult farmer classes and/or
farm management classes often came
by bus to the shows during these
events to further their education by
attending seminars, meetings, and
the shows other activities. Many of the
adult livestock and crop exhibitors got
started showing in the youth division
of the shows and have built successful
farming operations from the experi-
ences they had as youth exhibitors at
the show.

Vocational agriculture instructors
from many towns in Minnesota bus
We Wish You Continued Success
RED RIVER VALLEY WINTER SHOWS

Congratulations On Your 75th Anniversary

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