Haven't missed a Winter Shows in 60 years. I look forward to seeing friends, meeting new people, and especially to see the dairy cattle. I used to stay here the whole week at the Commercial Hotel. Besides visiting, I'd learn new ideas and have some fun. I liked meeting the people from the University -- the county agents. A.M. Pikey, O.M. Kiser, and others. The Experiment Station has always had good people who were willing to help us farmers. I liked those short course classes at the Northwest School and Experiment Station as I learned new ideas and got acquainted with the experts. I think the Winter Shows is needed for a long time in the future. People who live here look forward to the show with great anticipation every year.

Harold Thomforde, Crookston. Long-time businessperson, former mayor, international poultry judge. He has the longest continuous record of service on the Red River Valley Winter Shows board of managers. He was elected to the board in 1936 and served until 1981 representing the Northern Minnesota Poultry Association. Harold writes:

Due to my long-time connection with both the poultry and combined Winter Shows, I would like to express a personal observation. It is my opinion that the combined Red River Valley Winter Shows has been a dominant factor with the overall advancement of agriculture in the Red River Valley. It is my candid opinion that a good share of the success is due to the leadership the organization has had. I have worked with all of the presidents of the organization; Conrad Selvig, Austin Dowell, Tom McCall, Bernie Youngquist, and Jim Lofgren. All have been tremendously effective leaders. However, the most progress was made under the dedicated leadership of Dr. Youngquist. Since 1956 when he became president, he has led us from the small, old, cramped quarters in downtown Crookston to our large complex of new buildings located on the outskirts of our city. The field of agriculture activities tripled. The meetings and seminars have quadrupled and the people taking a part have increased at least ten-fold. The financial standing is now on a firm foundation and the future is assured. Our thanks go to all of these leaders and to the many volunteers up and down the Valley. We hope this kind of broad-visioned leadership continues in the future.

Ann Simley, Associate Professor Emeritus, Hamline University, St. Paul, Ninety-three years old and now living in Madison, Wisconsin. She was a Northwest School of Agriculture teaching staff member in 1922-1930.

Not long after I arrived at the N. W. S. A. in October of 1922, I heard about the Winter Shows. Mr. Selvig had made it very clear to me that part of my job there was to get every student on his feet before an audience at least twice a year. He felt that these young people were the potential leaders of the 30's and 40's. We accomplished this objective by demonstrations, speeches, plays, poetry reading, short story telling and any form of public address. We had a debate coach who had that work.

Winter Shows was a busy time. Our students and faculty were involved in various ways. I remember one year Mr. Selvig wrote a pageant script which was an ambitious undertaking. About 50 students took part and the music department also. We had to plan and execute our costumes and what scenery and props we needed. As I remember it, the audience enjoyed the show and the experience for the student was valuable.

Many of the students also had the opportunity to exhibit their produce or animals. I know there was judging experience also.

Outstanding speakers and entertainers were brought to Crookston for this cold and often stormy, but exciting week. I was there when radio was in its infancy and not so much more than a plaything. So the live talent was of great interest to the community as well as the school. There were political speakers from the Twin Cities and Chicago, and inspirational and humorous speakers. I remember an author of some popular novels of that time. Even after 60 years, I remember a woman whose subject was how to hang pictures. The decor in many homes took a new turn after that.

Of course we were interested in the prizes our students won. Wallace Miller, former manager of Minnesota Valley Breeders Association, had a display of russet potatoes that took first prize. After the show, he gave them to me. I took them to Wisconsin where my father planted them in our garden. For years we had the best baking potatoes in town.

During the short school year, we were too busy with the academic program to find out what was happening in the animal division. But at the Winter Shows we saw these prize animals. I was surprised even though I had lived on a farm until I was 18 years old. The sheep impressed me. I knew where we got the expression "pull the wool