chance in the early days to exchange ideas on farming; it gave them a chance to see the new crops that were being introduced and a place to find out where the quality seed was being produced. They could buy the new varieties of good seed to take back to their area. They were the leadership kind that came to the Winter Shows in those years and they still are.

The Winter Shows is not as important today for finding the new varieties and new farming methods, but it is still an unusual opportunity to see the innovations, new machinery, and new techniques. Too, the Winter Shows produces a view of the kinds of things that are on the horizon and may not be recommended practices yet today. It provides an opportunity to see some of the research that is ongoing before it becomes new practices on the farm. These innovative farmers are the ones that will look at a particular practice and if it looks like it is going to work on their operation, they will take it back and try it out in their own experimentation.

The first place that some farmers of the Red River Basin saw computers was at the Red River Valley Winter Shows. Computers are new in agriculture and they are being accepted very rapidly, as farmers take this new tool and adapt it to their business. The kinds of programs farmers are developing to use on the computer to help them do a better job of farming are fantastic.

I see the Red River Valley Winter Shows of the future being the kind of organization that will bring to a modern agriculture the evolving techniques and ideas that are up on the front line-cutting edge of agriculture. It may not be the place to look for new seedstock, though these opportunities will still exist. It may not be the place to come and look at machinery, but those opportunities still exist. I think as we look down the road, we are going to see more kinds of information in the area of marketing, new methods of marketing, new methods of market development, and maybe even some new crops as we evolve toward the year 2000.

I see a potential for the Red River Valley for being one of the greatest vegetable-producing areas of the world. We have a tremendous capacity here for the production of vegetable crops, like the cole crops, cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower. We also have a great potential for green snap beans, green peas, and carrot production, with a capacity to produce a tremendous tonnage of these crops in our heavy soils in the Red River Valley with their efficient water utilization. Our problems are going to be harvesting techniques and as we develop the kind of machinery that does not require footing in this heavy muck-clay when it gets wet, some method of propelling and controlling the height above ground that does not depend on contacting wet soil. We have a potential to become a real important vegetable growing area. It may not happen for ten or twenty years.

The 30 years of association with the Red River Valley Winter Shows have been rich and rewarding: the things I have seen happening over the last 30 years have been positive. It has made a difference. The future of the Red River Valley Winter Shows is going to be just as important as the lay citizen leadership of the Red River Valley wants it to be. Hats are off to the board of managers of the Red River Valley Winter Shows and the 300 volunteer committee persons out in the 14 counties. My congratulations to them in their 75th year.

Dr. Larry J. Smith, of Crookston, MN is the sixth and current superintendent of the University of Minnesota, Northwest Experiment Station. He came to the Station as the agronomist for general crop research. Later he shifted to the agronomic position created for sugarbeet research. He has been active with the Barley Show, the Sugarbeet Growers Institute, and other crop activity. Currently, Dr. Smith is chairman of the planning group for the educational seminar series at the Winter Shows and represents the Northwest Experiment Station on the board of managers.

The University of Minnesota, Northwest Experiment Station has been involved with and supported the various functions and organizations of the Red River Valley Winter Shows since its inception 75 years ago. The degree of support has been multifaceted. Four superintendents of the Northwest Experiment Station have served terms as president of the Red River Valley Winter Shows. All have served on the board of managers. The livestock and crop scientists and their technicians have served on various commodity boards, which develop individual programs to make the Red River Valley Winter Shows the success it has been over the years in these areas. The secretarial, maintenance and farm departments of the Station have willingly given of their time and talent to help insure the smooth operation of all phases of the Show.

The Red River Valley Winter Shows provides a forum for the exchange of innovative ideas, information, and fellowship. Many of the friendships and research ideas I have had over the past 13 years started in 1971 when I arrived in Crookston, Minnesota, just in time for the opening ceremony of that year's Red River Valley Winter Shows.

The Northwest Experiment Station and its staff, along with the citizens of northwestern Minnesota, will continue to serve on the various volunteer organizations that have made the Red River Valley Winter Shows what it is today and to the improvements to the quality of life they will make during the next 75 years.