four board memberships on the board of ten. Too, there were times when the superintendent of the School and Experiment Station served as president of all three of the leading boards named. The neutral nature of the University resulted in automatic election of the superintendent as president of the show. This custom continued for 73 years until 1982.

This early group of organizations were primary in leading the show for about 45 years. There were a number of related groups like the County Agent Association, Boys and Girls Clubs, Crops and Soil Association, and farm clubs who became satellite cooperators with varying degrees of involvement. Today there are 21 different Valley-wide organizations represented on the board of managers. Each one is a cooperator in planning and executing the annual Winter Shows. A list of these and what they represent is found in the appendix. This group of cooperating organizations, in addition to a number of volunteer arrangements committees throughout the counties, is the greatest single substantive influence which has kept the Winter Shows alive in the past, maintains it in the present, and will in the future. Newly formed organizations serving farming across the region may well join the Winter Shows board in the future.

A list of committees established by the board of managers for 1984 is recorded in the appendix. Too, there are several committees existing in each county which are not listed. Adding up the total number of people who provide from a few minutes of planning to many, many days and weeks of time, the total number of volunteers in the 14-county area exceeds 300 people. If the Winter Shows ever loses this volunteer characteristic it may well lose its effectiveness as a unique educational arm of the grassroots leadership in the Red River Basin, an arm which harnesses the expertise of the Land Grant College to the energy and effort of all major organizations related to agriculture in northwestern Minnesota.

Life hasn't been always smooth and easy for the Red River Valley Winter Shows. The government of the show has gone through the stress and anxiety of cooperating organizations vying for an upper hand. The heavy volunteer nature of the organization even today presents problems to the management. Throughout the 75 years, however, the sincerity and purpose of the Red River Valley Winter Shows exposition has been proved. It was once upheld in the courts when the lack of information on the part of well-meaning but uninformed citizens involved the board of managers in a law suit where the Winter Shows had to fight for its life. The law suit went all the way through the Minnesota Supreme Court. The decision was made in favor of the ongoing Winter Shows.

The lesson learned here was that the Winter Shows had grown up, and relationships out in the 14-county area had become more complicated. A stronger organization was needed. Consequently in the early 50's, the Red River Valley Winter Shows board of managers was officially incorporated. A strong membership, nonprofit, tax exempt corporation was organized under Minnesota law. By and large, except for updating brought about by the changing scene, these articles of incorporation and by-laws are essentially the same today as they were in the early 1950's.

Bill Strickler of Euclid relates an interesting sidelight to the law suit experience. Four members of the board of managers were requested by the legal counsel for the Winter Shows to be at the hearing by the Minnesota Supreme Court in St. Paul. The court

These boys and girls represented their home schools and counties at the annual Red River Valley Spelling Contest held Friday in connection with the Winter Shows at Crookston. LaVerne Balme of Gully, Polk County was named winner of the trophy. Other contestants were: Allan Daslund of Perley; Lorraine Hietala of Sebeka; Ruth Stenslund of Drayton, ND; Twila Nygaard of Grygla; Opal Walsh of Arago; Alice Davis of Graceton; Charles Swanson of Red Lake Falls; Delores Lehman of Breckenridge; Julia Lundmark of Bagley; Arnold Engelstad of Thief River Falls; Elaine Aasland of Warroad; and Bill Klinke of Lengby. Date unknown, probably in 1930s.