WINTER SHOWS TODAY

In 1985 the Winter Shows will be 75 years old. The success and ever increasing growth of this event can be attributed to the planning and dedication of nearly 300 volunteers in the 14 county area of Northwest Minnesota. Educational services, senior citizens day, youth activities, livestock shows, and commercial booths are a few of many highlights of the Winter Shows each year. More than 35,000 individuals attend this gathering in late winter to obtain new ideas and to see friends of years gone by.

LATEST IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Major improvements of the Winter Shows facilities have been undertaken on three different occasions since 1910. Encouragement to carry out these improvements has come from the citizenry of Northwest Minnesota to the Board of Managers. Several banks listed herein have underwritten the financing of the latest project.

In 1977 the Winter Shows added the North Arena, a $500,000.00 investment. This addition provides 33,000 square feet to be used for youth activities, regional horse shows and the growing agribusiness exposition. The facility is heated, lighted, and fully insulated for use at anytime of the year.

Because such an addition is a benefit to all the people of the Valley, it was suggested that regional co-ops, local co-ops and area wide agriculture service industry be invited to provide investment contributions. This group raised 50% of the total project costs. The remaining half of this capital investment ($250,000.00) is being paid through the earnings of the Shows and the sustaining membership program. The interest on the mortgage, repairs and maintenance of the entire Winter Shows complex are paid through operational income. In 1981 refinancing was accomplished through a twenty year Industrial Development Bond resulting in a lower interest rate, a considerable saving in interest each year.

SUPPORT THROUGH SUSTAINING FUND MEMBERSHIPS

The debt for capital improvements is substantially aided each year through Sustaining Fund Memberships. Memberships are of two categories, both of which help toward debt reduction.

The first category of membership is the SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP which is obtained by persons making a $10.00 tax deductible contribution each year. The membership card issued provides the holder one day’s attendance to the Winter Shows the current year.

In 1978, the LIFE MEMBERSHIP payment policy was revised to enable a sustaining member to obtain a Life Membership by contributing $25.00 a year for ten years. Each year the contributor makes a contribution he or she receives a five-day pass to the Winter Shows and after the tenth $25.00 contribution, a lifetime pass is issued.

A LIFE MEMBERSHIP may also be received by those who contribute $200.00 or more in a lump sum toward the capital needs of the Winter Shows. Life Memberships entitle the bearer a card for admission to each day of the Winter Shows every year for the rest of their life.

An annual financial report of the Winter Shows is sent to all members and is available to others on request.