

GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES FOR NEW RED RIVER VALLEY
WINTER SHOWS BUILDING — AUGUST 11, 1961

FAITH IN THE VALLEY

Address Delivered by

B. E. Youngquist, President of the Red River Valley Winter Shows

The Red River Valley is famous for its resources of soil, water, and favorable climate. This climate has enough "edge" to it to keep people vigorous. There are many places in the world that have soil and water resources and favorable climate — where agricultural production has not reached the level of the Red River Valley. Why? The answer is people! The activities of our forefathers were such that natural resources of the Valley have been used for a better living for man. These forefathers were wise enough to place a University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station in the middle of the Red River Valley. A School of Agriculture was founded to spread the fruits of research. Business and industry developed at strategic locations to complement the farming enterprise. The Red River Valley Winter Shows developed as a unique force to further strengthen and bolster that farming enterprise as early as 1910.

As one looks to the decades ahead, the long-time potential of agricultural production is unusual in this Red River Valley. A wealth of soil is here, the water cycle is favorable, and the climate is suitable to several agricultural enterprises. The **primary limitation** on the future heights of agricultural production potential is man's ability to study, to analyze, to plan, and to embark on bold actions of faith in the future. I am amazed at the foresightedness of the men who provided leadership for the early Red River Valley Winter Shows. They did not have near the facility for communication and transportation which we have today. My sincere and humble salutation to those leaders who have gone before us whether they were connected with the Red River Valley Winter Shows or whatever may have been their activity in relation to agricultural leadership.

It is indeed a privilege to be among the several to turn a clod of earth on this occasion. The turning of this clod of earth, symbolizing the beginning of the construction phase of new facilities for the Red River Valley Winter Shows, is an expression of the kind of **faith** and the kind of **spirit** which will strengthen and lengthen the stature of

Red River Valley agriculture.

The Board of Managers would be presumptuous to think that the Red River Valley Winter Shows will be all things to all problems in agriculture. They do, however, firmly assert that this is a farming area for the foreseeable decades, and, that there is good reason for re-muscling and rebuilding this very useful force — the Red River Valley Winter Shows. This force, with up-to-date facilities, will be strengthened by the addition of a full-time executive director who will supervise, under the Board of Managers, appropriate events **throughout each year**... This will provide a unique opportunity for the farm leadership of the Valley to express itself in several ways and to work cooperatively at problems of concern to Northwestern Minnesota.

You will note from the plans of the Board of Managers, as publicly announced, that the size of this building is 180 feet wide by 300 feet long — about 1¼ acres. This is an adjustment in the original thinking, but do not think for a minute that the Board of Managers is abandoning the thought of an adequate facility. The next fifty years calls for a building with an **exciting appearance** and enough space to represent **agriculture** as well as **serve those who service agriculture**... This site was purchased from the University of Minnesota on the merits that the Board of Managers was planning a facility designed to be a "key force" for expressing agricultural leadership. The major section of the building, we commence construction on today, is of such a nature and stature that the **long-time plans** for Winter Shows facilities have been strengthened.

This ground breaking ceremony is living evidence of the faith that leading citizens have expressed in the farming industry of Northwestern Minnesota. May we, in this high purpose, hold steadfast to the wise use and the orderly development of the resources of this rich Valley — its soil, its water, and its people. The faith, as expressed by "free-will gifts" to the construction of this building, must be kept.