

# Lund brought thousands of trees to Grand Forks County

By Carol Graham  
Herald Staff Writer

Martin Lund's first impression of Grand Forks County was that it looked like a treeless plain. His new job in 1944 was to change all that.

After 33 years with the Eastern Grand Forks County Soil Conservation Service office, the county acquired the title of "Shelterbelt Capital of the World." A faded sign still stands along Highway 2 near the Larimore turnoff making that claim. Today, miles and miles of shelterbelts line roads and divide fields.

Lund died Tuesday, Jan. 24, 1994, in United Hospital. He was 75. The family home is at 919 S. Ninth St.

A native of Trail, Minn., in eastern Polk County, Lund came to North Dakota in 1944 as the first conservationist of a new district. He set about persuading farmers to plant shelterbelts to protect topsoil from harsh winds. Interest in soil conservation was high in 1944 because of concerns arising from the Dust Bowl wind storms that



Martin Lund

flood dikes and plowed ridges to hold the snow. Forty years later, more than 14,000 acres of shelterbelts had been planted in the county.

"I had a good bunch of farmers to work with," Lund said in a retirement interview in January 1978. "and they do a good job in taking care of the land. They see the neighbor plant a shelterbelt, and it works, and, by golly, they want to go out and plant one, too," Lund said.

Martin C. Lund was born June 26, 1919, in Trail, the son of Carl and Hilda (Knevelsrud) Lund. He graduated from Gonvick (Minn.) High School and the University of Minnesota. He taught in Grafton,

made skies black with topsoil.

Lund spend much of his 34-year career helping farmers establish good conservation practices, using cover crops,

N.D., from 1942 to 1944. He married Edith Hodny July 21, 1944, in Lankin, N.D. He was instrumental in the design of the Larimore Arboretum.

Survivors are his wife; daughters, Judith Lund, Half Moon Bay, Calif., Frances Corbit, Belmont, Calif., and Dr. Kathleen (Mrs. Sabri) Ayaz, Eden Prairie, Minn.; five grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and sisters, Mabel (Mrs. Phil) Schmit, Trail, and Gladys (Mrs. Donald) Hughes, Palo Alto, Calif.

He was preceded in death by five brothers and one sister.

■ **Services:** 2 p.m. Saturday in United Lutheran Church.

■ **Visitation:** 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, with a 7:30 p.m. prayer service, in Amundson Funeral Home, and one hour before services in the church. Memorials are suggested to the American Diabetes Association and Grand Forks County Water Resource District Arboretum.

■ **Burial:** Memorial Park Cemetery.