

Lyder *and* Boots Tande Memorial Endowment



Boots and Lyder Tande modeled lifelong learning for their children. Books of all sorts filled bookcases throughout the house, and magazines and newspapers always topped the end tables. Every out-of-town trip, no matter how far or how near, held an interesting history lesson of some kind. From an early age, all of their children knew college was in their futures. It is only fitting to build an endowment at the college to honor their commitment to life-long learning.

Lyder Christian Tande was born April 30, 1927, in Scobey, Montana, to Christian O. and Julia Theresa (Lien) Tande. He attended Scobey schools, and upon graduation from SHS in 1945, he joined the U.S. Army. After his discharge in 1947, he entered Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, under the GI Bill.

Isabelle Louise “Boots” Tande was born to Hjalmer and Viola (Sorensen) Eklund on February 21, 1931, in Ada, Minnesota. She attended first through eighth grades at Lockhart School before transferring to Ada High School where she graduated in 1949. From there, Boots also entered Concordia College.

While they were attending Concordia, Lyder and Boots met. It was love at first sight. They soon discovered they shared a lot of common interests, including a strong love for family, faith, and Norwegian heritage. They married on August 5, 1950, and then moved to Scobey where they established their home, a place they lived their entire married life (53 years). That same year, Lyder joined his dad in running Tande’s Grocery.



In the summer of 1951, Lyder returned to Concordia to finish his degree and graduated in the summer of 1951 with a double major in history and math education. During this time their first son, Luther Craig, was born.

Three more children were to follow—Bradley Christian, Teresa Lyn, and Victoria Julianne.

Lyder and Boots worked tirelessly side by side in the grocery business. Lyder ran the store, and Boots assisted by sewing aprons for store employees and making macaroni and potato salad from scratch before anyone started mass-producing such things. She also ordered food, checked out, and filled in wherever there was a need.

In between all that, they found time to make their home a comfortable and inviting place for the neighborhood kids as well as their children’s school friends. Afternoons of tobogganing were followed by loaves and loaves of cinnamon and sugar toast and gallons of hot chocolate. Nobody ever left that Tande household hungry.

Literacy was key in the Tande household. After supper, the family gathered in the kitchen for Scrabble or Anagrams, often with cups of hot lemonade. No night was complete without reading before bed, from all of the *Little Visits with God* books to the complete Laura Ingalls Wilder series. Lyder always read the daily newspaper section to section, and Boots was never without a thick, historical fiction novel by her side along with her infamous Medical Dictionary. Her fascination with medical issues earned her the family pet name of “Doctor Boots.”

Lyder's sense of humor brightened the days of many customers, many for whom he had a fun pet name. His sense of optimism was a key part of him. If he ever heard someone say, "I wish it were ... tomorrow, next week, etc." he would gently admonish "Don't wish your life away." Indeed, to him, every day was a good day because "he woke up alive." Almost every sympathy card sent after his death in 2003 shared some sort of memory of Lyder whistling, whether in the aisles of the store or during his early morning walks on the streets of Scobey. What many people don't know is that the Sunday before Christmas, Lyder would get up early and deliver anonymous gifts to the clergy in town or people he knew were in need. Usually, the gift was a box full of groceries; sometimes it was a sealed envelope with cash. Both his daughters loved sharing that adventure with him.

Boots was born with music in her. Whenever music came on, it was her cue to dance, even if it meant dancing with herself around the house. She could not keep her toes still or her vocal cords from vibrating. To her last days, music was a source of comfort to her.

She was the consummate mother, making treats for classrooms, decorating tiered cakes for birthdays, attending all her children's concerts, serving as a den mother, and always remembering the teachers at Christmas with the best festively wrapped homemade fudge and divinity.

At Christmas break, the family put together a one-thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle in the family room. Of course, Lyder would always take a piece and hide it just to tease Boots. She loved jigsaw puzzles, and crosswords, and word jumbles; if it was a word puzzle, she tackled it. She carried that passion with her into the nursing home until her death in 2016.

When Lyder "retired" in 1992, son Craig

joined Tande's Grocery in Scobey while son Brad continued running Tande's Grocery in Poplar. Despite retirement and declining health, Lyder remained a vital presence in the stores. And always, he was a vital presence in the community. He was a member of the C-400, the American Legion, and Elks. He served as chair of the Daniels County Democratic Central Committee for several terms. A life-long passion of his was rural health. He was a member of the Montana State Rural Health Committee, the Daniels County Foundation Board, and the Daniels County Hospital Board. His longest continuous membership, from baptism to burial, was with the Scobey Lutheran Church.

Lyder and Boots lived a good and full life and always had their hearts open to let anyone in. Their home was the summer gathering place for impromptu meals with classmates or friends or the place where Norwegian hotdish would greet family members after a long day's drive. In their later years, they expanded their travels beyond the yearly trip to California to visit Boots' folks or to either coast to visit Lyder's sisters. A long-awaited trip Boots and Lyder made was to travel New England in the fall. A highlight of their travels was their one and only trip abroad, to Norway where they met Tande cousins and Lyder saw his father's birthplace. They definitely passed on their love of travel to their daughter.

Teresa Lyn Tande, LRSC associate professor of English/Humanities, Study Abroad Coordinator, and Phi Theta Kappa advisor, and her husband, Dr. Doug Darling, president of Lake Region State College, established the Lyder and Boots Tande Memorial Endowment to honor Teresa's parents' memory and to provide support for exemplary students actively engaged in collegiate activities, including travel abroad. The first award was made in 2018. ●

