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Situaries

Ex-legislator, grain elevator owner C. L. Gunter dies

Clarence L. (Shorty) Gunter, 81, former state legislator and owner of C.L. Gunter & Sons Grain Elevator in Raymond, Minn., died Friday of cancer at his home in Raymond.

Gunter was born in Clara City, Minn., and attended St. Mary's Boarding School in nearby Bird Island, Minn. He graduated from St. Cloud Teacher's College in 1931 and returned to Clara City, where he taught for seven years in a one-room schoolhouse.

Later sold pots and pans for a

short time before he leased a truck and worked for a few years as a grain salesman.

In 1942, Gunter bought the grain elevator in Raymond as well as a corn dryer and a fertilizer plant. Eventually, he opened two more elevators in Minnesota, in New London and Priam.

A DFLer, he was elected to the state House in 1977. Issues of particular concern to Gunter were the environment, agriculture and labor relations.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Raymond Builder's Club, the Eagles, Lions Club, Sportsman's Club, Willmar Country Club and the Valley Golf Club, also in Willmar. He was on the board of directors of Farmer's State Bank and was a member of the Raymond school board for 27 years.

Gunter enjoyed golfing and for the past 10 years had given golfing lessons at the four-hole golf course in Raymond. Two years ago the course was named after him.

In 1988 he won the senior golf championship at the Valley Golf Course. Gunter and his wife, Dorothy, were grand marshals of the Raymond Centennial Parade the same year.

Gunter's daughter, Renee Ehlenz, of St. Paul and Rochester, said he was always the life of the party.

"He just had the best time in the world at everything he ever did," she said.

Roger Rueckert, Gunter's friend and neighbor, said, "He had a lot of ener-

gy and that energy kind of rubbed off on people."

Besides his wife and daughter, Gunter is survived by sons Michael, of Moorhead, Minn., Patrick, of Montevideo, Minn., Timothy, of Wailuku, Hawaii; brothers Tom, of Clara City, Ray, of Sheldon, Iowa, and a sister, Mabel Ziller, of Bird Island.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Raymond.