



MR. AND MRS. DANIEL SCHUMACHER inspect the Australian tree which they planted shortly after they were married.

Schumacher has been chosen Brown County's outstanding conservation farmer for 1979.

Schumacher receives conservation award

Daniel Schumacher, Leavenworth township farmer, has been chosen as Brown County's Outstanding Conservation Farmer of 1979. Dan has lived on this farm all of his life except for a two-year tour of duty with the U.S. Army in Germany in the mid 50s.

Dan married Frances Guhlke of rural Sleepy Eye in 1962, the same year that he bought the home farm from his dad, Matt Schumacher, when Matt retired to live in Sleepy Eye. He has since purchased additional land and presently owns 260 acres of land adjacent to the Big Cottonwood River west of Leavenworth, MN.

His farmland is a mixture of good upland soils, sandy soils, sloping soils and river bottom soils. According to Lester Schmidt, district conservationist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in Sleepy Eye, this type of farmland does lend itself to winning conservation contests but the steward of the soil still must make the decisions to apply the necessary conservation practices, pay the construction costs and then farm them in a conservation manner. "Schumacher has done this exceedingly well," Schmidt said.

Daniel first started applying conservation practices in the mid 60s after listening to a sales pitch from Schmidt.

Contour strips, sod waterways and a farmstead windbreak were the first practices applied by Schumacher. He has since constructed 7,850 feet of terraces to his sloping land and annually follows a good rotation that includes 20

Dan has 50 holstein milk cows along with another 20 young and dry stock to feed the alfalfa hay from this rotation.

He has also planned his farm to include 40 acres of woodland and 40 acres of wildlife area which produces deer, Hungarian Partridge, pheasants, squirrels, coon and rumor has it, even fish.

Daniel and his wife Frances have four children, David, Darla, Sheila and Melissa. The Schumachers are active members of the Church of the Japanese Martyrs at Leavenworth.

Daniel is well known in the Leavenworth area for his baseball pitching days with the Leavenworth Orioles. He said he is now retired. Pairing up with his brother Dennis, as catcher, they played baseball for 20 years with Leavenworth and made it into the Minnesota State Baseball tournaments five times. Dan also enjoys bowling and in his best year, he had a league average of 186 at the Springfield Lanes.

Schumacher still finds time to serve as Leavenworth town board treasurer and to go dancing with his wife to both Old Time and Country Western music.

Frances and Daniel are both anxiously awaiting their trip to Duluth in early December to receive their award at the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation District's State Convention.