



**Thomas Nord**

---

1922

Tom Nord was 29 when he began taking flight instruction from Hod Hodson of Grafton, ND. He became an aerial applicator and flew out of Grafton until 1955 when he moved to Pembina, established Nord Aviation and became airport manager. He currently manages the airport, serves on the airport authority and operates Nord Aviation with his son, Terry.

Tom holds commercial, instrument, certified flight instructor and single engine land and sea ratings. He has also been type rated in the DC-3, TBM, and Lockheed 18. He also has an A & P rating. Tom has also flown gliders and currently holds the North Dakota Multi-place gliding record. Nord Aviation also operated a parachute school for a number of years.

In 40 years of aerial application, Tom has used many different planes, including the J3, DC-3, TBM, and Callaire. He was the first to use a Snow. Built by Leland Snow, this was the first plane specifically designed for crop spraying. Nord Aviation has also used a helicopter for aerial application. For many years, Tom also sprayed in the southern part of the country during the winter, ranging as far south as Florida and Texas. It is estimated that he has sprayed over 2,000,000 acres during his career.

Tom also operated a very active charter flying service for many years, flying for a number of businesses on a regular basis. He also flew many hunters and fishermen up to Canadian lakes in the amphibious Gruman Goose.

Many young pilots in the northeastern corner of the state took lessons from Tom. At least five of them have gone on to achieve Captain's status as commercial airline pilots. Tom's dedication to aviation and willingness to share his knowledge has been an inspiration for many to pursue aviation as a way of life.