

Dana E. Dillman

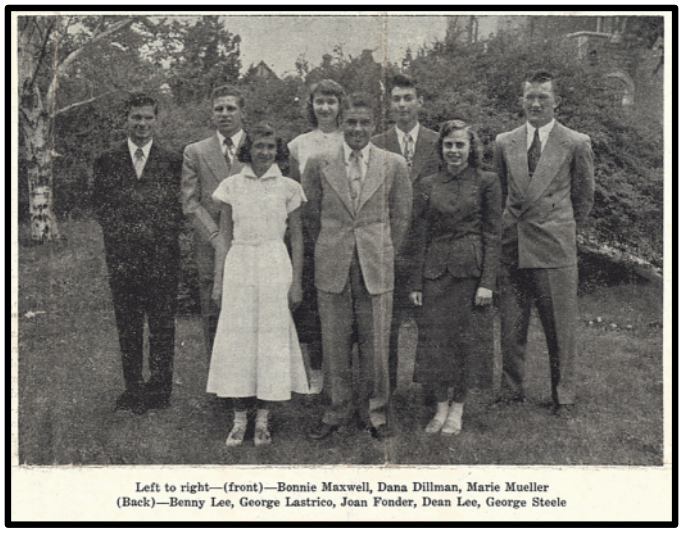
September 14, 1933 – January 19, 2024

Dana was born Sep. 14th, 1933 near Cavour, SD to Estel Elmer and Alta May (Day) Dillman. He attended South Dakota School for the Deaf in Sioux Falls, SD where he learned the printing trade. It was a residential school where he lived 9 months of the year, and made many life-long friends. He spent summers at home with his family. Dana was an avid sportsman, participating in football, baseball, basketball, and track.

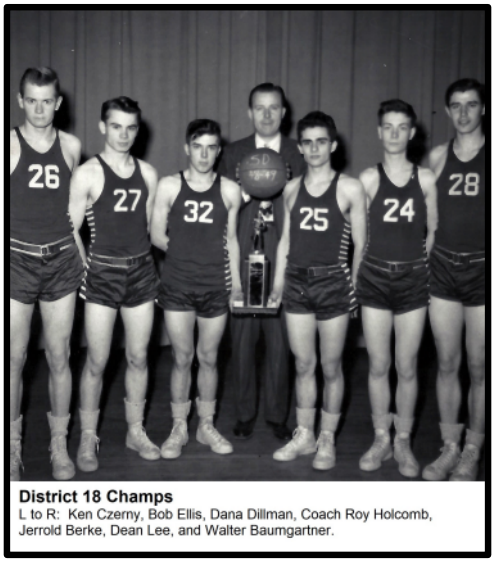
Dana started a career in 1952 as a linotype press operator for various printing companies. He married Eva L. Williams on June 1, 1962 in Coon Rapids, MN, and they lived in Brookings and Sioux Falls, SD, and Glencoe MN before finally settling in the St. Cloud, MN area. In 1974, he earned a diploma in Graphic Arts from the St. Cloud Vocational School. Dana was active in bowling and softball into his mid-sixties. He was very active in the Deaf community in the St. Cloud and Minneapolis areas.

In 1971, Dana "heard" his first gospel message in his native language, American Sign Language, and gave his life to Jesus and followed him the rest of his days.

In Dec. 2022, Dana was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic prostate cancer. On January 19, 2024 he lost his battle with cancer and passed away.



Left to right—(front)—Bonnie Maxwell, Dana Dillman, Marie Mueller
(Back)—Benny Lee, George Lastrico, Joan Fonder, Dean Lee, George Steele



District 18 Champs
L to R: Ken Czerny, Bob Ellis, Dana Dillman, Coach Roy Holcomb, Jerrold Berke, Dean Lee, and Walter Baumgartner.

Dana is survived by his wife Eva, his sons Daniel (Judy), Mitchell (Krista) and Nikolas (Dani), his brother Clyde "Chub" (Huron, SD) and sister Althea (Cheyenne, WY), and 14 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Robert "Bob" (Mt. Airy, MD)