Rex Norman Phillips Willey

October 29, 1916 – June 26, 1964



Rex Norman Phillips was born near Great Falls, Cascade County, Mont. On Oct. 29, 1916 to the parents of Andrew Sherman "Sherm" Phillips and Evelyn Bartels. Evelyn who was known as "Eva" died in November 1919, and Rex was taken in and raised by Mrs. Eva Willey , a family friend of the Phillips' from their days in Burt County, Neb. Eva's husband, Rex Wayland Willey, had died of influenza while serving in France during the First World War, Sherman is supposed to have named Rex after Mr. Willey.

Rex was born deaf, and was educated at the South Dakota School for the Deaf in Sioux Falls in 1923 and left in 1936. He spent his working life as a salesman, later General Manager, for the National Deaf Mute (later simply Deaf) Sales Company of Chicago. In that city he married on July 11, 1945 Theola Anna Snyder, they had no children. Rex was a resident of Chicago until his death from a heart attack at a Minneapolis hotel while there on business, at age 47.

He was buried in the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery at River Grove, Ill. Survivors include his wife, his mother Eva, three brothers and a sister from his adoptive family, and six brothers and a sister from his birth family.



The gravesite for Rex Willey is unmarked. It is located where the flowers are placed at the center of the photo.