



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



DANA BETH CLEVERDON

August 15, 1946 - August 8, 1978

Stillwater High School Class of 1964

7th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 12, 2002

Dana is the first woman inducted into the Pioneer Athlete Memorial. In her Stillwater High School days, 1961-1964, options for participating in female varsity sports were severely limited. Cheerleading was the closest thing to an organized sports activity available to girls. If she were here today, Dana would say, "Thank goodness times have changed!"

Dana was born in Stillwater on August 15, 1946, to William H. and Barbara Herron Cleverdon. She graduated with the Stillwater Pioneers Class of '64 and from Oklahoma State University in 1969, with a Bachelor's Degree in English. She died in Tulsa on August 8, 1978.

She was a cheerleader in ninth grade at Stillwater Junior High, and a Varsity Cheerleader at SHS for two years. Dana was a beautiful girl, well-liked, and capable. She was a good student and served as Distributive Education (DE) Secretary and Junior Class Treasurer. She was honored as Senior Class Royalty and DE Queen Attendant. She was a member of Pep Club and Girls' Recreation Association (GRA).

At OSU, she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. After graduation she spent time in Colorado and California. She returned to OSU for post-graduate work in 1973 and moved to Tulsa in 1977.

She loved swimming at Yost Lake, loved horses and horseback riding, took flying lessons and earned a private pilot's license. Dana was an adventurer, the embodiment of Pioneer Spirit. She worked hard at everything she did. She wasn't afraid to venture into new territory and to take risks. Her friends knew her as a bit of a trickster and a joker - funny and fun-loving.

"She was a genuinely nice person," her friend Judy Hoyt Koger said. Dana liked people, she cared about people. As a youngster, she was a Candy-Striper at Stillwater Hospital. "She was really a gentle person," Judy said. "She had an aesthetic quality in the way she thought about things. Like an Earth Mother, she was harmonious with Nature." She wrote poetry.

Dana had a lot of friends who thought of her as sweet, friendly and kind-hearted and as a girl who could be surprising, spontaneous and daring. A deeply religious person, she had a serious side as well.

Her accomplishments, her intelligence, her commitment and loyalty to Stillwater High School and Pioneer pride are matters of record. The spirit of Dana Cleverdon, the delight, care, and affection she gave to and received from the many who loved her are matters of the heart.

Presenter
Sandra Dutreau Williams
Stillwater High School Class of 1964