Robert B. Lilly

1936 – 10 March 2018, 82

Once again, I am the bearer of bad news. Robert Bryant Lilly, 82, passed away in Abilene, TX on 10 March 2018. This leaves Dewayne Dickey as the last of the original hard-core Abilene cavers (Bart Crisman, Dewayne Dickey, Jim Estes, George Gray, and Bryant Lilly). You can see that group posing at the entrance to Felton Cave on page 187 in 50 Years of Texas Caving. I never heard him addressed as Robert, Bob, or Bryant. It was always “B. Lilly or just Lilly,” and he referred to himself in that way.

He was a very active member of the Abilene Grotto. He did a lot for Texas caving and never sought the spotlight. During the years 1961–1964 when James Estes was so ably editing the Texas Caver, Lilly was the man behind the scenes doing the lithography and running the printing press. During the 1965 TSA Project at Deep Cave he did a good job supplying and operating the camp commissary.

Somehow, I never spent much time caving with Lilly but here is a good photo I made on a very early exploration trip to Deep Cave in January 1965.

We are diminished.

===Carl Kunath on TexasCavers list, 22 March 2018