

Jimmy Walker, 1927 – 12 October 2017, 90.

With heavy heart and a sense of considerable personal loss I report to you that Texas has lost one of the pioneer members of its caving community. Jimmy Walker passed away October 12, 2017 age 90 after a short final illness. It was my honor to be counted as one of his friends.

Many of you may now be confused and asking "who?" Take a look at page 33 in *50 Years of Texas Caving* to see Jimmy in action. Also see page 25 for an iconic view of Devil's Sinkhole with Jimmy holding aloft a safety flare.

Jimmy's prime caving days were in the 1950s with others of the era such as Bob Hudson, James Papadakis, Preston McMichael, Bob and Bart Crisman, and the enigmatic Frank Nicholson. Jimmy's caving exploits while substantial, were but a small part of his life. He was a skillful writer. During his caving career, he wrote several short stories that were published in the "adventure" magazines of the time such as "I Fell Into The Lost Cavern" that was set at Cascade Caverns. A later book, *Win, A Casino Survival Guide* is much more than the title would suggest.

Jimmy was an accomplished photographer and consummate painter. His paintings were photo-realistic and he trademarked the term "Absolute Realism."

Jimmy and his wife, Carol, were world famous collectors of pressing irons and for several years they published *Iron Talk*, a bi-monthly newsletter. In 2004, when their collection of 1,700 irons was sold at auction, it took several days to disburse the collection.

Jimmy had a professional career as a magician and partnered with Walter Blaney, a sometimes caving companion. See page 318 of *50 Years* for a picture of them in the Lower Cave at Carlsbad Caverns.

Jimmy was one of the early explorers at Caverns of Sonora and was with Preston McMichael for the first explorations of Deep Cave. Here is a photo of Jimmy and his wife, Carol, in the early days at Caverns of Sonora.

This short memorial does not do justice to the incredible depth and multi-faceted personality of Jimmy Walker.

Moreover, this is the kind of thing that should appear in a nice newsletter such as the now moribund *Texas Caver*.

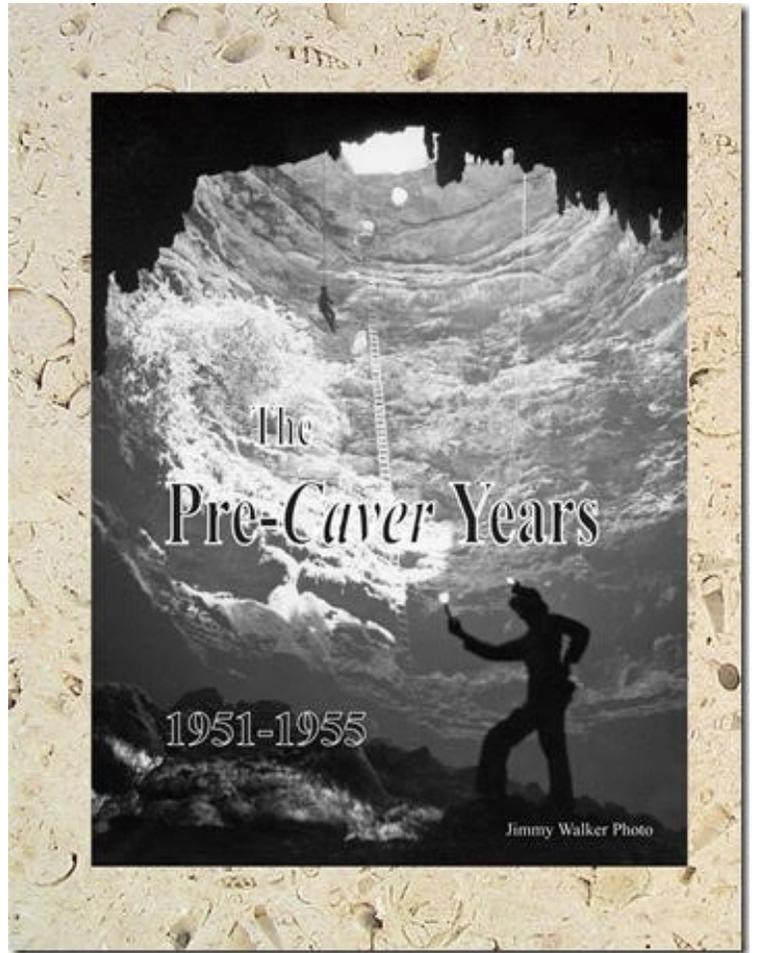
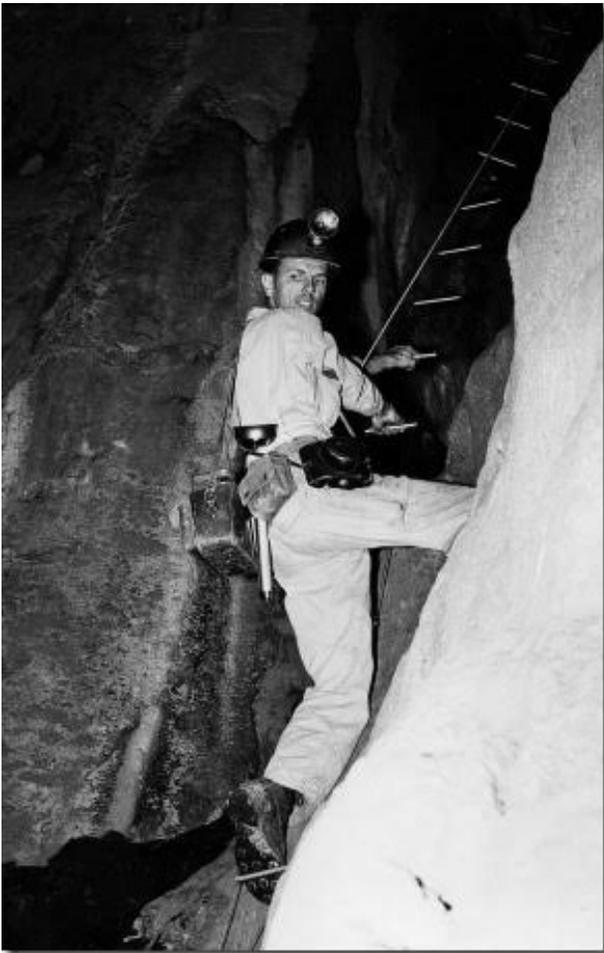
This bulletin board is a poor substitute.

We are diminished. ===Carl Kunath

Carl Kunath via Texascavers <texascavers@texascavers.com>

Sat, Nov 11, 2017, 10:51 PM

Images from Carl Kunath and Bill Elliott:



Photos of Jimmy Walker paintings owned by relatives of Bill Elliott:

