

# Charles L. “Squire” Lewis

29 April 1930 – 11 April 1995, 64, NSS 6951

**Note by William R. Elliott:** Squire caved extensively from the eastern US to Texas, California and Mexico. His first Mexico trip was in July 1966 to the Xilitla Area, just after the California NSS Convention. In April 1967 he and his girlfriend, Nancy Walters, were along on the original exploration trip to Sótano de las Golondrinas, assisting the team led by T.R. Evans. “Squire produced his timepiece and we timed several rocks. He got consistent times of 11 to 11½ seconds.”

**Obituary by Gil Ediger,** *The Texas Caver*, March 1995, p. 32.

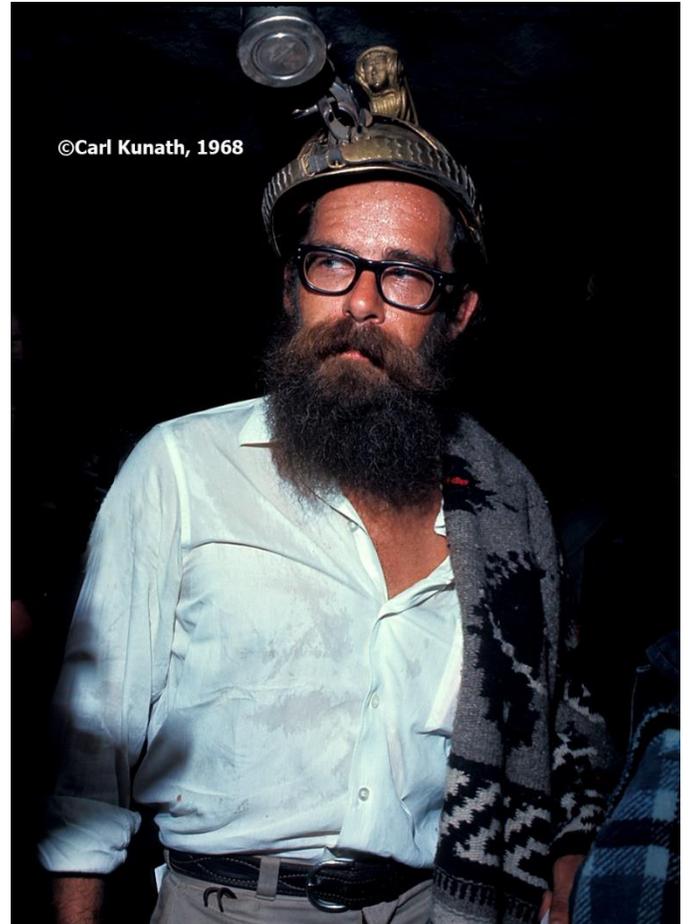
Survivors: Daughter Cristin of Austin, Brothers Philamon of Ohio and William of Florida

Through the span of his extraordinary life Squire worked as a laborer, carpenter, stone mason, Fuller Brush man, sheep herder, Irish Wolf Hound breeder, IBM tabulating machine operator, steel mill grinder, photographer and entrepreneur. He participated in the construction of locks, dams, and bridges on the Ohio, Mississippi, Saint Lawrence, Detroit, Arkansas and other rivers. He managed a real estate office, consulted on the construction of the IH-35 upper deck through Austin, was a volunteer fireman, and served six years as a Justice of the Peace (hence the title, “Squire”).

During his epic summer of 1966, chronicled in his book [cited below], Squire discovered both Mexico and Texas, and decided to spend the rest of his life in Austin. He entered the University of Texas as a 47-year-old freshman anthropology major. From being a street vendor selling huaraches, he developed the Charles Lewis Company which became world famous in pioneering the importation of Mexican folk art and weavings. Among his clients were museums, universities, governments, and preservation societies around the world, and all the original primitive Mexican folk artists were his friends.

Squire was a loving father to his daughter Cristin and the best ex-husband he could be to Mary Lou, Nancy, and Sheryll. He was a gracious friend, always willing to share his wine, his time, and his stories. He was a connoisseur of fine food and a master in the preparation of the wiener sausage. Squire had a special affinity for cavers and never met a campfire he didn't like.

Now it's time to piss on the embers and scatter the ashes: El fomoso Don Carlos de Oaxaca y Austin is dead.



### **Bibliography:**

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Lewis, Charles "Squire". 2016. Post-Convention Caving in Mexico in 1964, AMCS Activities Newsletter, 39, 64-66.



The "Old Reading Grotto": Bob Thren (left), Joe Pendleton, and Charles "Squire" Lewis, 1966. Photo by Sam Young. From AMCS Activities Newsletter 28, 2005, p. 103.