

## Oren Tranbarger

26 June 1939 – 28 January 2001, 61

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Oren Tranbarger, former resident of Ponca City and resident of San Antonio, Texas, died Sunday, Jan. 28, 2001, of a brain tumor. He was 61.

Oren was the son of Kirby Tranbarger of Ponca City and the brother of Alma Tranbarger Goldsby of Moore. He was preceded in death by his mother, Grace Howard Tranbarger, and a nephew, Kirby Goldsby.

Oren was born on June 26, 1939, in Coffeyville, Kansas. He grew up in Ponca City and attended Ponca City schools. He completed his secondary education at the military academy in Mexico, MO.

He developed an interest in broadcasting when he was a teenage ham radio operator. He worked at WBBZ in Ponca City and at KCRC in Enid. He continued throughout his lifetime working occasionally for radio and TV stations as a disc jockey and announcer.

Oren received his bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He added 300 hours of additional study in San Antonio.

He was employed at Southwest Research Institute from 1969 to 1998 and at the Goetting and Associates from 1998 to the present.

Oren was a member of Castle Hills Baptist Church and was active in Castle Hills Broadcast Ministries.

His hobbies included caving. He belonged to Bexar Grotto club and wrote extensively about their adventures. He also enjoyed organizing and leading camping expeditions to remote areas of the Southwest and Mexico. He loved the outdoors.

In addition to his father and sister, Oren is survived by his wife, Barbara of the home; daughter, Alison Epstein of Toronto, Ontario, Canada; two sons, Russell Tranbarger of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Patrick Tranbarger of San Antonio; stepchildren, Scott Cargill and Heather Herrmann, both of San Antonio; four grandchildren, Zackary and Nathan Herrmann, Alyssa Tranbarger, all of San Antonio, and Joe Epstein of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Services were held Thursday, Feb. 1, at Mission Park, North, Chapel. Burial was at Mission Burial Park, North in San Antonio, Texas.

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Note by William R. Elliott, 2 November 2019—

Oren Tranbarger was an active member of the Bexar Grotto, and he was co-editor of the *Texas Caver* for a while in the 1990s. I believe he re-located Illusive Pit in Nuevo León and visited it. Surely there is a caving tribute or a photo of him a newsletter, but I could find none in the *Texas Caver* or the *AMCS Activities Newsletter*. Thanks to Jerry Atkinson who sent me the above obituary from the San Antonio area.