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Smokejumper biographies for 1943 rookie class, A - H

National Smokejumper Association

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1943 Smokejumper Rookies

Ainsworth—Hudson

John L. Ainsworth (Missoula '43)

John died August 6, 2008, in Maple Valley, Washington, at age 90. He was born in May 1918 in Spokane, WA. At age nine the family moved to Detroit. John went to high school in Detroit but attributes much of his physical conditioning to a YMCA camp where he worked in the summer. "The camp experience contributed greatly to my physical conditioning, so I was able to engage in track and cross country in high school and some running in college. Without this activity, I do not think I would have qualified for smokejumping."

John was interested in electrical engineering from a young age and, after starting college in Michigan, he went to the University of Southern California. After his graduation in 1940, he went to work for Lockheed Aircraft before taking a position at Westinghouse in Pittsburg, PA. Due to religious reasons, he turned down a draft deferment as a critical worker and was sent to a Civilian Public Service Camp.

Phil Stanley started the action to convince the powers that the CPS men would be an excellent resource for the smokejumper program that was threaten by the lack of manpower. John was among the first selected to the initial 1943 program and jumped all three years of the program.

Following his discharge, he returned to Southern California and began work with the Edison Company. He moved to Polson, MT in 1947 where he continued his work and then followed a move to Hungry Horse where he was active in the Methodist Church. John worked on the construction of the Hungry Horse Dam and retired from the Bureau of Reclamation in 1981. John was ahead of his time being an early advocate of organic gardening, composting and solar power. He built and drove an electric car in the 1970s.

John H. Andes (Missoula '43)

John, 93, died March 27, 2008, of heart failure. He farmed in Pennsylvania in his early years. He spent most of his working years in the dairy industry doing herd improvement and artificial insemination.

John later became a custodian at Northern Illinois University and at the high school where he lived in Rochelle, Illinois.

He jumped at Missoula 1943 as part of the CPS-103 smokejumpers during WWII.

Delbert S. Barley (Missoula '43)

Del, 96, died July 3, 2014. He was born June 28, 1918, in New Hampton, Iowa, and a member of the Brethren Church. He was a teacher at the time he was drafted into the Civilian Public Service in November of 1942. After serving at two camps, he reported to Seeley Lake in 1943 and was among the first 60 men from the CPS to be trained for the smokejumper program.

Del jumped all three seasons (1943-45) of the program before being discharged in December of 1945. His educational records show bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees and that he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, Ithaca College, and New York State University. He spent many years living in Germany. *(His bio was written in German so this was the best we could do for Del. Ed.)*

Leonard Bartel (Missoula '43)

Leonard (Leonhard), 56, died June 3, 1972, in Marion, South Dakota. He jumped at Missoula for all three years (1943-45) of the Civilian Public Service program. He was one of the few CPS jumpers that came back into smokejumping after the war and he jumped and NCSB during the 1947 season. Leonard was also Loft Foreman 1947-50 before David "Skinny" Beals (MYC-45) took over that position.

Harold and his wife, Delsie, operated a hotel and cafe in Marion. He was a member of the Zion Mennonite Church.

Walter Ralph Buller (Cave Junction '43)

Walter, 69, died April 21, 1991 in Newton, Kansas. He was born September 29, 1921 in Inman, Kansas, and a member of the Mennonite Church. He entered Civilian Public Service in December 1942 and was among the first group to report to Seeley Lake in 1943 for smokejumper training. After training, Walter joined nine other men at the Redwood Ranger Station in Cave Junction, Oregon, for the initial year of that base. He jumped at Cave Junction for the 1943-44 seasons before transferring to NCSB for the 1945 season. His wife, Ruth, was the assistant cook at NCSB in 1945.

Walt left CPS in March of 1946 and returned to Hesston, Kansas where he was self-employed in drilling for oil and gas and involved in farm sales.

Harry B. Burks Jr. (Missoula '43)

Harry died in March 23, 1963, in a traffic accident in Seattle, Washington. He was born June 23, 1918, in Dawson Spring, Kentucky. Harry lived in Columbia, Tennessee and was a graduated of Vanderbilt University in 1940 with a degree in Engineering.

Harry was drafted into the Civilian Public Service in October 1942 and was working as a radio engineer at that time. He was among the first group of CPS men to report for smokejumper training and jumped all three years of the program. He was discharged in 1946 and worked for the American Friends Service Committee.

Wilmer “Bill” Carlsen (Missoula '43)

Bill, 91, of Polson died March 28, 2008, at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula. He was born February 3, 1917, on a farm near Harlan, Iowa. He was a longtime resident of Missoula and Polson. Bill was one of the original CPS-103 jumpers and one of the few who jumped all three seasons of the program's existence.

In a 2004 interview with Smokejumper magazine Bill told more about his past. In 1936 at age 19, Bill and his older brother decided to head west to dig potatoes. “The whole family came down to the freight yards to see us off,” Bill recalls. His brother managed to climb aboard the first train, but it was moving too fast for Bill. He was able to catch the next one and rejoined his brother 1,100 miles down the track in Park City, Montana. From there it was picking apples in Omak, Washington and bailing hay in Lancaster, California.

War clouds were developing, and Bill registered with the Lancaster draft board. Returning to work, “I had a lot of time to think about it on that big hay field driving the tractor back and forth. I finally decided that I couldn't shoot anybody.” He was sent to a CCC camp run by the Forest Service near Cascade Locks, Oregon, where he gained firefighting experience on the Deschutes River and the Olympic Peninsula.

One day there was a notice posted in the camp mess hall about smokejumper positions in Montana. Out of over 200 conscientious objectors in the camp, only Bill and one other man responded.

Bill reported to Seeley Lake on May 1, 1943, ready to go. The assemblage was so large that jump training was staggered through the summer. Bill was in the second group of 30, starting in mid-June. He had only one fire jump that year, on the Madison Plateau, 14 miles from Old Faithful.

Bill jumped two more years, jumping fires in Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. Later, he joined the carpenters union, working at that trade until retirement.

One emotional memory from his jumping years involved a confrontation with a non-jumping USFS employee, a recently discharged Marine. “He kept calling me a yellow belly. He wouldn't shut up.” Bill's foreman, Wag

Dodge (MSO-41) heard the ruckus and came to his rescue. "He really straightened the guy out."

Addison Reynold Carlson (Missoula '43)

Add, 71, died December 9, 1981, in Minneapolis. He was born August 13, 1910, in Big Falls, Minnesota. He lived there for the first 25 years of his life and by 1940, he and his three brothers had moved to San Anselmo, in Marin County California. Addison was a driver for the Parish Brothers Construction Company working on the Alpine Dam from the late 1930s until early 1942.

In March 1942, Add and his brother, Clarence, both members of the Jehovah's Witnesses, appealed to the San Rafael draft board that they be exempt, based on their religious belief from induction into the military service. Clarence contented that he was exempt because he was a minister. However, a federal court jury sentenced Clarence to four years in prison and Addison was certified exempt if he would appear for assignment to a Civilian Public Service work camp. In lieu of serving in prison, Addison reported to Camp Number 031-01. Camp 31 was operated by the Mennonite Central Committee, opening in April 1942, a month after Addison agreed to serve in a work camp. Camp 31 was a Forest Service camp 60 miles east of Sacramento, California with the enrollees making transportation and erosion improvements and preventing and fighting forest fires.

In early 1943, a request was made by the Forest Service for Conscientious Objectors in Civilian Public Service Camps to volunteer to be trained as smokejumpers. Approximately 350 volunteered and 62 were selected. Addison was one of the selectees and he reported to Civilian Public Service Camp 103-01, in Seely Lake, Montana. Camp 103 opened in May 1943. Addison was a smokejumper in 1943, 1944, and 1945, all three years that Conscientious Objectors participated as smokejumpers. He had at least seven fire jumps while smokejumping.

After leaving the smokejumping program, Addison returned to Minnesota where he worked as a carpenter in Minneapolis. He never married but had many friends. He is buried in Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis.

Edward M. Clark (Missoula '43)

Ed, 71, died July 8, 1991. He was living in Columbus, Georgia. He was born February 16, 1920, in Edinburg, Scotland. Ed was a member of the Congregational Christian Church and served in the Civilian Public Service

during WWII. He entered CPS in June of 1943 and jumped at Missoula during that season. Ed was released in April 1946.

Ed received degrees up to and including his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and was an Associate Professor of Botany at Auburn University in Alabama.

Glenn Harlin Corney (Missoula '43)

Glenn died December 14, 1989, in Wilmington, Ohio. He was born January 26, 1921, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Glenn was a clerk/timekeeper when he was drafted into Civilian Public Service in October 1942. He was among the first CPS men to be trained as smokejumpers. Glenn was also trained as a cook at the Nine Mile base and on large fires.

He was discharged in April 1946. Glenn is listed as have completed three years of college and was a bookkeeper as an occupation.

Albert Wiltse Cramer (Missoula '43)

Al, 69, died May 12, 1992, in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho. He was born October 14, 1922, in Missoula, Montana. Al graduated from Great Falls (MT) High School in 1941 and was in the 1943 rookie smokejumper class. He jumped at Missoula 1943-45, McCall in '46, back to Missoula '47-50 and '52-60. Al then went to the BLM jumper program in Fairbanks 1966-67.

In a recorded oral interview, Al recounts his static line hook coming off the cable on his 7th rookied jump and he was forced to use his reserve. He was also one of the few jumpers to handle a one-jumper fire. In 1947 he made the first fire jump in New Mexico as the Forest Service was experimenting with the possibility of using jumpers in a part of the country with high winds and high-altitude landing spots.

In 1949 Al spotted four jumpers in an exhibition jump into the National Mall in Washington, DC. By established policy at the time, Al had to stop jumping at age 40. When he transferred to the BLM in Fairbanks, he wrote a BLM policy changing that rule. The Forest Service followed.

Herbert F. Crocker (Missoula '43)

Herb died April 19, 1986. He was born July 31, 1918, in Minneapolis, Minnesota and went through the local school systems there. He was active in the Congregational Church.

He was drafted into the Civilian Public Service (CPS) in 1942 and was among the first of the conscientious objectors to be trained as a smokejumper. Herb jump all three years of the program.

After his release in 1946, he returned to Minneapolis and worked as a carpenter. Starting in the 1950s, Herb was active in the peace movement and one of his sons spent 18 months in a Federal prison for refusing induction into the service during the Vietnam War.

Herb developed a blood cancer before his death in the spring of 1986. From his wife: "While in CPS, he became acquainted with the Society of Friends (Quakers) who gave him support during the time of his illness. We both believed that our lives did make a difference in the community, in that we tried to lead our lives consistent to the teaching of Jesus."

Daniel A. Deal (Missoula '43)

Dan, 72, died October 13, 1983, of lung cancer perhaps caused by working for years around grain dust and orchard pesticides. He was born June 8, 1911, near New Enterprise, Pennsylvania, the seventh child of a family of eight children. The family spoke Pennsylvania Dutch and attended the Church of the Brethren and were a farming family. In 1920 they migrated to Onekama, Michigan, where Dan went through all 12 grades. "We were the only family that spoke Dutch."

Dan was President of the Brethren Young People's group in high school and went to work for a farming complex upon graduation. He entered Civilian Public Service in 1942 and was selected as one of the initial smokejumpers at CPS-103 Camp in Montana. He jumped all three years of the program. Dan's son recalled later being told by his father that he was injured on his last jump when he was blown backwards into a drainage ditch and "had a backache the rest of his life."

Dan met his wife, Francis, in Missoula. She was attending the University of Montana and they married in 1945 before Dan was discharged from CPS. They had four children.

After his discharge in 1946, he and his brother moved to Onekama, Michigan, where they bought and operated a feed store until 1975. In addition, Dan bought seven acres where the family made a living buying/selling grain (built grain elevator), operating a chicken raising business, and growing/selling orchard fruit.

Dan and his family were active in the Onekama Church of the Brethren and Youth For Christ. He was involved with the church and their disaster relief programs in different parts of the U.S. He is buried in Onekama Village Cemetery with wife.

Robert L. Derry (Missoula '43)

Bob, 94, died March 23, 2020. The last of the Derry brothers, he rookied in 1943 before enlisting in the Navy and serving in the Seabees until the end of the war. Bob was involved in landings in the Marshall Islands and spent eleven “miserable months” on Kwajalein. He was a heavy equipment operator in Spokane 1946-49 before joining the Douglas Co. Fire Department for a 30-year stint as Fire Chief.

Bob was approximately 17 years, and a month old when he rookied in 1943. Bob remained in excellent physical condition as he aged as anyone who worked with him on the NSA Trail Projects can attest. He continued to bike, ski, kayak, row and run in later life.

Diller, Kenneth A. (Cave Junction '43)

Ken died August 16, 1998. He was born January 17, 1919, on a farm near Bluffton, Ohio. His parents were killed in an auto accident when he was in the 8th grade. Ken graduated from high school in 1937 and participated in football and music. With his Mennonite background, Ken joined the Civilian Public Service (CPS) in 1942 as was assigned to a camp in Virginia.

“During the winter, I answered an ad that asked for volunteers to be trained for smokejumping. In May, I was at Seely Lake, MT and, after training, went to Cave Junction, Oregon, where ten of us started the first smokejumper base in Oregon.

Ken jumped for two seasons at Cave Junction. He and Calvin Hilty possibly made the first fire jump in California (July 30, 1944). He then jumped his third season at Winthrop. “I loved the scenery in Washington, the trees were less tall than the 225 footers in Oregon, and there seemed to be more alpine meadows.”

“On July 27, (1945) we jumped three loads on the Bunker Hill Fire—there was a strong wind blowing. We managed to get a line around the fire that night. About sun-up five DC-3s flew over. One started dropping equipment about a mile from us before we were able to direct his attention to an area near the fire. By this time the wind had died down providing ideal conditions for the 100 black Airborne (paratroopers) from Camp Pendleton.”

Ken was one of the few CPS-103 jumpers to jump all three seasons. After the war he returned to Ohio to resume his career as a farmer/rancher. “Smokejumping had to be a high point in a farmer’s life.”

After retiring, he continued to work at the nearby Mennonite Memorial Nursing Home.

John Pershing Ferguson (McCall '43)

John was born January 26, 1919, in Harrison, New Jersey. John died April 18, 1998, in Spokane, Washington. By December 31, 1940, John moved west and enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps. He was stationed at Camp F-66 along the Payette River on the present-day Boise National Forest. By December 1941, John was living in McCall, Idaho and working for the Forest Service.

When the smokejumper program was established in Region Four in 1943, John along with Stewart "Lloyd" Johnson and three Civilian Public Service (CPS) enrollees were trained as smokejumpers at Seeley Lake, Montana. After their training, they were stationed at McCall, Idaho. John and Lloyd were trained to be riggers and spotters and Lloyd was appointed foreman of the program.

John and CPS enrollee, Lester Gahler, were the first two smokejumpers to jump a fire in R-4, jumping 30-foot Eagle parachutes on the Captain John Creek Fire on August 14, 1943. John returned to smokejumping in 1944 but entered the U.S. Army that summer and served as a crewmember on a B-29 aircraft until his discharge on November 28, 1945. He returned to smokejumping from 1946 through 1948 with two fire jumps each of those years.

After smokejumping, John continued with a career in the Forest Service in R-4 until the late 1970s. His primary occupation was in engineering and as a cadastral surveyor on the Targhee NF in Anthony, Idaho and in the Regional Office in Ogden, Utah.

David P. Flaccus (Missoula '43)

David, 75, died October 25, 1993, in Bend, Oregon. He was born October 31, 1917, in Pennsylvania. David went to Quaker schools outside of Philadelphia and graduated from Haverford College in 1940.

He was drafted into the Civilian Public Service in 1941 and was among the first of that group to report to Seeley Lake, Montana, for smokejumper training. David, Phil Stanley, and Loren Zimmerman were the first CPS jumpers to make a fire jump on July 29, 1943. He was one of the few CPS jumpers to jump all three seasons (43-45) of the program.

David settled in Missoula upon his release and started a printing business. The Mountain Press Publishing Company became very successful and known worldwide. He is also one of the founders of the Snow Bowl Ski Area near Missoula. The U.S. National Downhill ski championships were held at the Snow Bowl in February 1967.

Lester E. Gahler (McCall '43)

Lester, 75, died February 11, 1990, of a heart attack while on vacation in Anaheim, California. He was born November 5, 1914, in Needy, Oregon. Lester lived most of his life in this area working as a farmer and farm equipment contractor. He was operating the Filbert treats Candy Store in Canby, Oregon, at the time of his death.

Lester jumped all three seasons of the CPS-103 smokejumper program and was based in McCall, Idaho. He had three fire jumps in both the 1943 and '44 seasons and four fire jumps in the 1945 season. Lester was buried in the Zion Mennonite Cemetery in Hubbard.

Emory Lytton Garber (Missoula '43)

Emory, 87, died August 21, 2006, in Merced, California. He was born August 15, 1919, in Ripon, CA. Emory, a farmer at the time, was drafted into Civilian Public Service in February 1942. He was among the first CPS workers to join the smokejumper unit in Montana where he jumped all three years of the program.

He was discharged in 1946 and graduated from Life Bible College in 1967. Emory served as a minister of the Foursquare Churches in Red Bluff and Myers Flat, CA. He also served as Chaplain at the Ft. Bullion Men's Correctional Facility and served as a board member of Child Evangelism with his church. He is buried in Hughson, California.

Arthur Fred Geisler (Missoula '43)

Art, 90, of Alma, Kansas, died Tuesday, March 23, 2010, at the Wamego City Hospital. He was a life-long member of the area.

Art was born February 22, 1920, in Dwight, Kansas, and attended local schools. During WWII, he was a conscientious objector and jumped with the Montana unit during the 1943 season.

For many years Art farmed the family farm located in Northwest Wabaunsee County. In the 60s he left the farm and moved to Wamego. He worked for many years constructing houses in the area, especially, Manhattan. He also sold real estate.

Art was a very active member of Peace United Church of Christ in Alma and held several church positions. He and Henrietta was also very involved in the Schmitz Friedens Haus and the Camp White. He also made several trips to Honduras to help construct a medical clinic there.

Louis Goossen (Missoula '43)

Louis, 100, of Beatrice, NE, died June 25, 2019. He was born April 19, 1919, in Beatrice and graduated from Beatrice High School in 1936. Louis

was one of the few Civilian Public Service men to jump all three years (1943-45) that the CPS-103 unit was in effect.

Louis spent the majority of his career expanding the dairy industry in Nebraska and Kansas. His business developed and manufactured equipment used in the dairy industry, construction projects, and lawn care equipment. He later formed Goossen Construction building single family homes.

Louis was a lifelong member of the Mennonite Church and served on many boards in the Beatrice area. Louis was inducted into the Beatrice H.S. Hall of Fame in 2005.

Marvin William Graeler (Cave Junction '43)

Marvin, 59, died April 30, 1977, after suffering a heart attack while playing golf in Lancaster, Ohio. He was born January 23, 1918, in St. Louis, Missouri. Marvin, a meat cutter at the time, was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1941. He was a member of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Marvin was among the first group of CPS men to be trained as smokejumpers and was assigned to the new smokejumper base in Cave Junction, Oregon, where he jumped for two years.

At the time of his death, he was living in Whitehall, Ohio, where he worked as an actuary for Nationwide Insurance. He had been on the Whitehall City Council for five years.

Bryn Hammarstrom (Missoula '43)

Bryn died July 18, 2008, in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania at age 90. He was born on August 6, 1917, in Ridgewood, New Jersey

He graduated from Wesleyan University in 1939 with a degree in chemistry and was drafted into the Civilian Public Service in 1941.

Bryn was among the first group of CPS jumpers and trained at Seeley Lake with Jim Waite as foreman. "While in training we watched Frank Derry make his last jump. He did not land on the field. A group of military people from Alaska came to Seeley Lake for training to be a search and rescue squad."

Training for the 1944 season was moved to Nine Mile northwest of Missoula. "Florence Wenger went through the training but never made a jump."

After smokejumping he spent two years as a medic in Puerto Rico and, after being discharged, he went to work at a chemist developing floor coverings. In 1970, after extensive rehabilitation work recovering from a

bicycle accident, he spent twenty years of volunteer work for many service organizations in his area.

Edwin James Harkness (Missoula '43)

Ed, 71, died November 28, 1985, in Northfield, Minnesota. He was born February 18, 1914, Dakota County, Minnesota. Ed was a farmer/postal employee when he was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1942. He was member of the Methodist Church.

Ed was one of the first CPS men who trained as smokejumpers and jumped all three years of the program 1943-45. He is buried in Waterford, MN.

Jack G. Heintzelman (Cave Junction '43)

Jack died March 3, 1999, in Seattle. He was the foreman at Cave Junction 1943-1945. From the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base history: "Jack Heintzelman, a young forester, 'experienced as a lookout, administrative guard, member of a 40-man suppression crew and protective assistant,' with 'no past experience at smokejumping,' headed the 1943 Smokejumper Project at Cave Junction." This was the first year of smokejumpers at Cave Junction and the Siskiyou Base was the 2nd or 3rd smokejumper base established in the U.S.

"The first I heard of the project was in the spring of 1943. Supervisor Obye called me and asked if I would like to head the Smokejumper Project to be stationed at Cave Junction. I was the Protective Assistant at the Redwood Ranger Station at the time."

Upon acceptance of the position, Heintzelman was sent to Seeley Lake for training as a rigger, spotter and jumper. "At Seeley Lake, I was assigned 10 men from the CPS (conscientious objectors) crew. These men and I trained under Jim Waite (MSO-40) and Earl Cooley (MSO-40). Frank Derry (MSO-40) was parachute trainer leader. The crew was of very high quality with a variety of skills. After six weeks we returned to Cave Junction." The crew made six fire jumps that season. Jack commented about the good quality of the CPS jumpers in his end-of-season report. For the remaining two years under Heintzelman, the crew was made up of CPS jumpers.

At the end of the 1945 season, Jack was transferred to the Powers R.D. Siskiyou NF. He later was a District Ranger on the Olympic NF, personnel officer in the Forest Service Chief's office, and then served with the agency in its Milwaukee Regional Office.

Calvin A. Hilty (Cave Junction '43)

Calvin, 94, died March 24, 2014, in Strathmore, CA. He was raised in Missouri, the son of a Mennonite minister, and was one of the original CPS-103 smokejumpers. Calvin was born in 1917, in Donnellson, Iowa.

Calvin graduated from high school in 1938 and went to work doing labor on a state highway project in Missouri.

He was inducted into the Civilian Public Service in November 1941. After two years in various camps he joined the CPS smokejumper operation and spent two years at Cave Junction, Oregon making 26 jumps.

Calvin went on to another camp in Maryland and did a tour on one of the horse boats to Poland before being discharged.

He went to Central California in 1946, bought 60 acres with the help of his in-laws and went into cotton farming for 50 years. When he retired from farming, Calvin started Calvin's Cap Rack business which was successful enough for him to employ ten people.

Jeremias “Jerry” Hofer (McCall '43)

Jerry, 59, died January 2, 1975 in Galveston, Texas. He was born October 13, 1915, in Miltown, South Dakota. He was a member of the Hutterian Brethren Church when he was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1941. Jerry was working as a miner/timber man at that time.

Jerry was among the first CPS men to be trained as smokejumpers and was assigned to the McCall Base in its initial year of operation. He jumped the 1943 season. He was a merchant seaman.

Vernon Sherley Hoffman (Missoula '43)

Vernon died December 3, 2007, in St. Paul, MN. He was born July 6, 1922, in Muscatine, Iowa. “My unusual middle name came from the doctor who delivered me.” Vern graduated from Muscatine H.S. and continued his education going to a local junior college. He was drafted in 1942, and as a member of the Brethren Church, went into Civilian Public Service work.

Vern was in several camps during his over three years in the program. “While all the projects were interesting, the smokejumping experience was the highlight.” He jumped the 1943 season.

After his discharge from CPS, he continued his education at Manchester College and finished at Earlham College (Quaker) in 1949 with a degree in Sociology.

Vern did Brethren Church projects in Puerto Rico, Dayton, and Baltimore involving community service. After five years he took a job in St. Paul working with the Housing and Redevelopment Authority from which he retired.

Charles Raymond “Ray” Hudson (Cave Junction '43)

Ray died December 3, 1989. His parents were missionaries, and he was born in 1914, in Madras, India. The family returned to the states in 1927 and settled in Eureka, California, on the north coast of the state. Ray graduated from Eureka H.S., attended Humboldt State University, and finished up at the University of California Berkeley with his bachelor's degree in 1936.

Ray was member of the Civilian Public Service smokejumpers during all three seasons of the program. He jumped at Cave Junction 1943-44 and Missoula in 1945.

Returning to northern California in 1946, he got his contractor's license and followed it with a license in architectural building design. The family moved to Redwoods Valley, CA, in 1953. Ray became very involved in community affairs: School Board President, Mendocino Country Board Supervisors, and others.

Being the parent of a child with Down's Syndrome, Ray took the lead in founding organizations and volunteering in work with the Developmentally Disabled.

