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Smokejumper biographies for 1944 rookie class, A - O

National Smokejumper Association

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1944 Smokejumper Rookies

Allen through Osborn

Jack Alexander Allen (Missoula '44)

Jack, 71, died July 12, 1988. He was born February 15, 1917, in Stephenville, Texas. Records shows that he enlisted in the Marine Corps in October 1938 and was discharged in August of 1942. Jack was one of few 1944 rookies who was not part of the Civilian Public Service group.

He lived in Eugene, Oregon and Missoula, Montana prior to moving to Albany, Oregon, in 1971. Jack was a road construction equipment operator and member of the American Legion Post in Sweet Home, Oregon. He jumped at Missoula for the 1944 and '45 seasons.

George A. Anderson (McCall '44)

George died June 9, 2011. He was born in 1911 and grew up on a farm in Kansas, worked in open pit copper mines in Utah and spent four years in the Civilian Public Service during WWII. He was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1942 from Midvale, Utah, where his occupation was listed as Carpenter.

After two years in the CPS in Carmel, California, he trained as a smokejumper at McCall and jumped the 1944-45 seasons where he got three fire jumps in 1944 and seven during the busy 1945 season.

After the war, George worked as a carpenter for 28 years in California and then went into the dairy business for another two years.

Roy Anderson (Missoula '44)

Little information was found about Roy. Records on his rookie year say that he was an "ex-Marine, Parachute Project Roster." Records show that there were "Paramarines" during WWII. The fact that he was able to report for smokejumper training in 1944 indicates that he had been discharged. That might lead to thinking that he was wounded in action and released before the end of the war.

During 1944 he made eight training and five fire jumps and five training and three fire jumps in 1945. Roy continued his jumping career jumping 1946, 1947 and 1949.

Lewis E. "Lew" Berg (Missoula '44)

Lew, 92, died March 1, 2010. He was born May 23, 1917. He was a member of Evangelical Church when drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1942 from Bremen, Indiana. His occupation at that time was listed as teacher.

Lew was a member of the CPS-103 smokejumper unit during the 1944 season as well as working in soil conservation and as a mental hospital attendant in following years. He had nine training and three fire jumps that season. Lew spent 1946 in Darmstadt, Germany, with the American Friends Service building a neighborhood center.

Lew graduated from DePauw University with a degree in math and received his master's from Syracuse University. Lew taught in Georgia and Indiana before moving to Parkville, Missouri in 1955. He taught mathematics at Park College and Maple Woods Community College before retiring in 1986.

Hubert Clarence Blackwell (Missoula '44)

Hubert died in a logging accident near Cave Junction, Oregon, June 18, 1952, when a log he was bucking rolled over him. He was born September 13, 1914, in Lynn, Arkansas. Hubert was a member of the Church of Christ and was drafted into Civilian Public Service from Elk River, Idaho, in 1942. His occupation at the time was listed as "Woodsmen."

He joined the smokejumper unit in 1944 and made eleven training and two fire jumps that season. Hubert again resumed working in the logging industry after his discharge and was living in Central Point, Oregon at the time of his death. He is the uncle of John Blackwell (MYC-64).

C. McMurray Braden (Missoula '44)

Charles McMurray Braden was born in Santiago, Chile, on June 9, 1918, where his father was running a religious bookstore and had taught at the University of Cochabamba.

Murry graduated from Northwestern University with a major in Physics and pursued his education at the Chicago Theological Seminary. During WWII he was assigned to the Civilian Public Service program (CPS) near Coshocton, Ohio, where he worked on a soil erosion research project.

In 1944 Murray volunteered for the CPS 103 Smokejumper Unit near Missoula and jumped the 1944 and 1945 seasons.

After the war, Murry began teaching Mathematics at the University of Minnesota where he completed a master's in physics and a Ph.D. in Mathematics. He then began a 25-year association with Macalester College. Starting as an assistant professor, he eventually was elected

Dean of the Faculty. In 1959 he received a National Science Foundation grant to study and teach at U.C. Berkeley. In his spare time, he studied designed and experimented with rotary engines such as the Wankel engine.

While his wife Geraldine taught at Boston University, Murry continued his work at the Digital Corporation in Maynard, Massachusetts. Murry passed away on August 1, 2000, in Saint Paul, Minn. He is survived by his wife, Geraldine and four children.

Benjamin W. Case (Missoula'44)

Ben passed away Feb. 16, 2005, at Horizon Hospice House (Billings, Mont.) at the age of 86. He was born July 22, 1918, in Greenport, New York, a descendant of a family that settled in New England in the mid-1600s. In 1937, he left Shelter Island, N.Y., and moved to Brooklyn to pursue an education at Browne's Business College.

After being drafted into Civilian Public Service, in 1944, he volunteered to be a smokejumper and headed to Nine Mile with his brother, George, for training. Ben made 11 jumps that first season and followed that with eight fire jumps during the busy 1945 season. Ben had always wanted to fly and Jerry Verhelst, one of the Johnson pilots, gave him lessons after work. He was discharged in 1946 and returned to the east coast.

Ben had fallen in love with Missoula and moved his family to Montana in 1949 where he worked as an accountant, first in the dairy business and later for a trucking firm, retiring in 1983.

Ben was a private pilot and enjoyed soaring in his later years.

George C. Case (Missoula '44)

George, 66, died February 18, 1990, at his home in Phoenix, Arizona. He was born April 4, 1923, in Greenport, New York and raised in Shelter Island, NY.

George was drafted into Civilian Public Service during WWII and, along with his brother George, reported to Nine Mile in 1944 to begin smokejumper training with the CPS-103 unit. He jumped the 1944 and '45 seasons. Both brothers had fallen in love with Montana and returned to that state in 1949.

George worked for the Florence Laundry Co., the Kraabel Chevrolet dealership and as manager of Medicine Hot Springs Resort before moving to Phoenix in 1978. He operated a laundromat until his retirement.

Homer Roscoe Chance (McCall '44)

Homer, age 89, died in Detroit, Michigan on May 31, 2009. He was born at Friends Mission, Selawik, Alaska, a remote native village near the Arctic Circle where his parents were part of the Friends (Quaker) missionary work. When the family returned to the lower 48, he attended Friends University where he graduated in Biology in 1942. His graduation creed to live by was "Know then, that some of us are gentlemen."

Homer registered for the draft on July 1, 1941. As a member of one of the Peace Churches he qualified for the Civilian Public Service program. He jumped at McCall for two seasons making three fire jumps in 1944 and seven in 1945.

Charles M. Chapman (Missoula '44)

Chuck, 70, died September 2, 1989, in Columbus, Ohio. He was born October 29, 1918, in Akron, Ohio, where his father was practicing law at the time. Chuck was a member of the Mennonite Church and in 1940 was living at home working as a timekeeper at a rubber factory and had completed one year of college. Later that year he was living in Kokomo, Indiana, and was employed by the Delco Radio Company.

Chuck entered Civilian Public Service in 1941 and worked at Camp 19 in North Carolina and Camp 108 in Tennessee before reporting for smokejumper training at Camp 103 in Montana. He jumped the 1944 and '45 seasons getting at least two fire jumps each year. Chuck was discharged from CPS in 1945 and went on to complete his college education. Chuck is listed as having attended Montana State, University of Minnesota, and Ohio State.

He retired in 1980 as a Research Physicist at Battelle Laboratories in Columbus, Ohio and was living in Cuyahoga Falls near Akron, Ohio at the time of his death.

Robert B. Cochran (Missoula '44)

Bob jumped three seasons at Missoula. In his rookie year 1944 he got seven practice and four fire jumps and was stationed at Moose Creek. In 1945 he got five training and seven fire jumps and followed that with three practice and four fire jumps in the 1946 season.

After the 1946 season he married and settled in Missoula where he and his wife, Anna, raised four daughters. Bob worked as a career truck driver in the Missoula area working for many businesses including Consolidated Freightways, Anaconda Company, and Champion Timberlands before retiring in 1984. Bob raised quarter horses as a hobby, enjoyed trail riding and was a member of the Missoula County Sheriff's Posse.

Bob became seriously ill with diabetes later in life and died at his home in Turah, Montana of a self-inflicted gunshot on November 18, 1987, at age 63.

Dale A. Entwistle (Missoula '44)

Dale died January 16, 2004. He was born October 14, 1917, in Athens, Ohio, where he attended elementary and high school. Dale was working for the New York Central Railroad when he was drafted into the Civilian Public Service in 1942 being a conscientious objector.

After a year in a CPS camp at North Fork, California, he and Weir Stone volunteered for smokejumping and reported to Seeley Lake in 1943. He broke a bone in his foot during training. He listed himself as 6' 2" and 225 pounds on his WWII draft card which is very large for most smokejumpers.

"The whistle" as he was known to his jumper peers, came back and jumped the 1944 and '45 seasons about which he said, "I did have two good fire seasons, helped in several spectacular and grueling rescue missions."

After the war he returned to Ohio and worked with the railroad for 16 years before moving to Missoula where he spent another 25 years with the Northern Pacific railroad. Dale was a rare gun collector when he lived in Missoula. He moved to Nakomis, Florida in 1985. His obit in *The Missoulian* said "Dale was happiest when he could do a good deed for someone"

T. Richard "Dick" Flaharty (Missoula '44)

Dick, 96, died April 9, 2017. He was born in Winnethka, IL, April 29, 1920. After his father deserted the family in the late 1920s, he grew up in a boy's home on the north side of Chicago. In that home he became interested in music and became a talented drummer and played at many events in his late teens and early twenties. At the same time, he was an active member of the Methodist Church and registered as a conscientious objector prior to the start of WWII.

Dick spent four years with the Civilian Public Service (CPS) during which time he volunteered for the smokejumper program in Missoula. The CPS provided 240 men to the smokejumper program during WWII and was instrumental in keeping the smokejumpers alive during the war. Dick has three fire jumps that year.

After the war Dick went to Roosevelt College where he received his BA in 2 ½ years and later his master's in social work from the University of Pittsburg in 1951. His professional career was primarily in child welfare

programs and involved work in Wisconsin and Michigan before moving to California and continuing as a Director of Family Services for the Volunteers of America.

Dick was very important in keeping track of the CPS jumpers for the NSA and involved in their smokejumper reunions that started long before the NSA was founded.

Erling Edward Gamble (MSO '44)

Erling, 94, died July 21, 2019. He was born August 29, 1924, in Salem, Ohio and was a Quaker. He was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1943 from Media, Pennsylvania. He joined the CPS-103 smokejumpers in 1944 and had ten training and three fire jumps during that season and seven training and seven fire jumps in the 1945 season.

After he was discharged, he earned his BA and master's degrees from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. From there he earned his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University. Erling went to have a career as a soil scientist with the Soil Conservation Service, USDA.

John R. "Jack" Gregory (Missoula '44)

Jack, 70, died August 26, 1986, in Bozeman, Montana. He was born July 19, 1916, in Billings, Montana. Jack was raised on a ranch in Rotten Grass (MT) and spent his early years on a family ranch near Mussellshell and graduated from Hardin High School. Jack was a "dedicated pacifist" and entered Civilian Public Service in 1942. He worked at Camp 33 at Fort Collins, Colorado, and Camp 55 in Belton, Montana. Both camps were operated by the Mennonite Central Committee.

In 1944 he went to the CPS-103 smokejumper unit and jumped at Missoula 1944-45 before being discharged in March of 1946. Jack earned a degree from Eastern Montana State University in Billings and continued to operate the family ranch until his death from complications of ALS.

James T. Hain (Missoula '44)

Jim, 86, a long-time resident of Seattle, died April 29, 2006, of cancer. He was born November 30, 1919. He rookieed in the CPS-103 Smokejumper Unit and jumped for two years, making a total of 21 jumps. In recent years, he made two tandem parachute jumps in memory of his smokejumper youth. After two years at Cornell College (IA), he pursued a career in logging, building and tunnel construction, and working in a power plant. Throughout his career he was active in back-country hiking and mountaineering, climbing in the Alps and North America.

H. Lee Hebel (Missoula '44)

Lee died March 17, 2010, in Pennsylvania. He was born on the family farm October 15, 1920, near Liverpool, PA. Lee attended a one-room school for the first eight grades and graduated from Liverpool H.S. The family attended the local Lutheran Church.

Lee was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1942 and was accepted into the smokejumper program in 1944. He jumped for two seasons. "I trained under Wag Dodge and Bill Wood." Lee had four fire jumps in 1944 and seven in '45.

Lee also had CPS work in hospitals prior to his time as a smokejumper and the cattle boat shipments to Europe after the war.

Lee graduated from Susquehanna University in 1948 and Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1951. He served Lutheran congregations for 38 years during his career. In 1974 Lee was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity by Susquehanna University for his commitment to rural church ministry.

Regarding his life: "If we were called upon to make the choices again, we would be Christians, a Christian Pastoral family, and Christian pacifists."

Nicholas Helburn (Missoula '44)

Nick, 92, died June 11, 2011, in Boulder, Colorado. He was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1944 from Bozeman, Montana, and jumped at Missoula during the 1944-45 seasons. Nick had ten training and two fire jumps in '44 and two training and four fire jumps in 1945.

He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Chicago and received his master's in Agricultural Economics at Montana State University. Nick had spent a year at Harvard University but left to spend a year working in the New Hampshire mountains. Nick was a conscientious objector during World War II; his alternative service was jumping from Missoula in the 1944-45 seasons, following a stint of building bridges in Tennessee.

Nick began his professional career at Montana State, helping to establish the Department of Earth Sciences. Nick spent a year in Turkey in 1951 on a Ford Foundation grant; the research from this time resulted in a book about dry land agriculture and village culture in Anatolia.

Nick moved to Boulder in 1965 to direct the High School Geography Project, one of the "New Social Studies" curriculum projects sponsored by the National Science Foundation to develop a new approach for teaching geography in high schools. He became the first director of the Education

Resources Information Center for Social Studies. He joined the Geography Department at the University of Colorado in 1971 and served as chairman for three years. He was also elected president of the Association of American Geographers.

Harold Hoyt Holden (McCall '44)

Harold, 88, died in Red Lodge, Montana, on January 10, 2013. He was born in Brewster, Washington, on January 2, 1925, and the family later relocated to Florida where he graduated from Palm Beach H.S. and Palm Beach Junior College. He served as photographer for the school's yearbooks. He registered for the draft on January 1, 1943, and, as a member of the Peace Churches, he qualified for the Civilian Public Service program. As a CPS jumper he worked at McCall in 1944 and NCSB in 1945. Harold had two fire jumps at McCall. NCSB records unavailable.

Following his jumper time, he was construction superintendent and later as Director of Royal Eight Salvors, Inc. in Palm Beach, Florida, for 50 years.

Merle Walter Hoover (McCall '44)

Merle, 90, died November 8, 2010, in Bluffton, Indiana. He was born January 1, 1920. Merle was a member of the Brethren Church and was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1942 from Goshen, Indiana.

He was a member of the CPS-103 group jumping at McCall during the 1944-45 seasons. Merle got three fire jumps in 1944 and seven in 1945.

After his discharge in 1946, he went to Manchester College in Indiana, graduated in 1949, and began his teaching career. After obtaining his master's degree in 1957 from Ball State University, he went into school administration until his retirement in 1982.

Lloyd Clair Hulbert (Missoula '44)

Lloyd died May 23, 1986, of lymphoma. He was born in his grandparent's home in Lapeer, MI, June 27, 1918. He attended public school in East Lansing before getting his bachelor's degree from Michigan State and his master's from Cornell College in Iowa.

Lloyd was member of the Civilian Public Service smokejumpers jumping the 1944-45 seasons at Missoula.

After the war he received his Ph.D. from Washington State University and took a teaching position at the University of Minnesota. He moved to Kansas in 1955, taking a teaching position at Kansas State University.

Lloyd felt his crowning achievement at K State was the establishment, in 1976, of Konza Prairie and 8,600-acre outdoor laboratory.

Even while stricken with cancer, Lloyd “climbed out of his sick bed” and gave his lectures at the University.

Oliver L. Huset (Missoula '44)

Oliver died March 27, 2004. He was born in December 1921 and grew up on a family farm in North Dakota, graduated from Crosby High School in 1939 and from the University of North Dakota with a degree in civil engineering in 1948. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1942 from Crosby, North Dakota. His occupation at that time was listed as Civil Engineer/Student.

Oliver was selected to join the smokejumper unit in Montana in 1944. He jumped the 1944-45 seasons getting seven training and three fire jumps in the '44 season and three training and three fire jumps in the '45 season.

Oliver worked in New York City as an engineer on various construction projects before returning to the University of North Dakota to take an instructor's position in mathematics and civil engineering in the 1970s. Oliver returned to the family farm and worked until retirement in 1997.

George J. Iten (Missoula '44)

George, 76, died May 10, 1994, in Canton, Ohio. He was born in Montana October 28, 1917. George was member of the Assemblies of God Church and was drafted into Civilian Public Service from Burbank, California, in 1941. His occupation at the time was listed as Clerk. George was first assigned to Camp 21 at Cascade Locks, Oregon, before joining Camp 103 in Montana for smokejumper training during the 1944 season. He had eight training and one fire jump.

After being discharged in 1945 he returned to California where he continued his education at Visalia Community College, Fresno State University and Goshen University (Indiana). George graduated from the University of Maryland Medical School and spent his career as a family physician. He lived in Orrville, Ohio, and is buried in the Crown Hill Cemetery in Orrville.

James C. Jackson (Missoula '44)

Jim, 74, died January 15, 2000, of a cerebral hemorrhage. He was born May 17, 1925, to Ralph Sr. and Zella Jackson in Satanta, Kansas. He came to the Kooskia, Montana, area with his family in 1938 and married May M. Potter on Jan. 17, 1944, in Orofino.

In March of 1944, they moved to Missoula, Montana, where he worked as a smokejumper for the Forest Service. He had nine training, four fire and one rescue jump in 1944 and four training and five fire jumps in 1945. He continued to jump the 1946-47 seasons.

In September 1947, they moved to Kooskia where he worked as a logger until 1959. In 1960 they built and operated Jim's Cashway between Kamiah and Kooskia. In 1969 they moved to Weippe to farm and ranch in the Fraiser area. In 1975 they moved to Kooskia where they owned and operated the Ida-Lee Motel until 1993. In 1994 they developed the River Junction RV Park. He loved fishing, hunting, camping and his family and friends.

H. Marshall Jensen (Missoula '44)

Marshall died June 12, 1997, in Hamilton, MT from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. He was born September 5, 1924, in Marshalltown, IA. Marshall graduated from high school in Eau Claire, WI, where he enrolled in the teacher's college before being drafted in 1943. He was a Quaker and entered Civilian Public Service.

He was one of the CPS-103 jumpers at Missoula during the 44/45 seasons. Marshall trained at Nine Mile and was stationed at Big Prairie RS in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. He had 13 jumps during the '44 season and seven more in the '45 season.

He remembered a jump to a fire in the Hells Canyon that took place at 10:15 in the night. That fire took a week to control and entailed a climb out of the canyon and a 19-mile hike to a guard station.

After working for Pacific Telephone for 30 years, Marshall retired in Chico, CA, before moving to Hamilton, Montana, in 1991.

John Lars Johnson (Missoula '44)

John Died March 12, 1993, in Gastonia, N.C. He was born August 28, 1913, in New Rochelle, New York. His father died when he was very young and his mother, a Swedish immigrant, raised him and his sister by working as a domestic for others in New Rochelle. He completed High School in New Rochelle plus 2 years of college and was working as a bank clerk/bookkeeper in 1940, living at home with his mother. John was a member of the Baptist Church.

He was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1942 and worked in two different camps before reporting for smokejumper training in 1944. John jumped the 1944 season and had nine training and three fire jumps. During the 1945 season, he has two training, two fire and one rescue jump.

After his release from the CPS in February '46 he returned to New Rochelle, eventually marrying Jeanne Emerson in June 1954. They raised two children.

In 1973 they moved to Gastonia, North Carolina, where he worked as an accountant for the Homelite chainsaw manufacturing plant.

Lloyd E. King (Missoula '44)

Lloyd died on August 14, 2001, of pneumonia and heart failure. He was born October 13, 1916, on the family farm close to Gridley, Illinois. He went to a one-room school for his elementary education and attended the Mennonite Church in Flanagan, IL.

Lloyd did farm work for three years before taking auto shop training in Chicago. He then started as a mechanic in the Ford garage in Roanoke, IL.

He was drafted into Civilian Public Service in May of 1942 and joined the Missoula smokejumper unit in 1944 where he also jumped the 1945 season. He had eight training and six fire jumps in the 1944 season which tied him with John Shipp for the high man in fire jumps. During the 1945 season, he had two training and four fire jumps.

After the war he returned to Illinois and then moved to La Junta, Colorado where he worked as an auto mechanic. From 1957 to 1972, Lloyd worked as a Maintenance Engineer at the Pioneer Hospital in Rocky Ford, CO.

In 1972 he started his own auto shop and operated that until his retirement in 1980.

Edward N. Kirk (Missoula '44)

Ed died July 14, 2009, in Barnesville, Ohio, at age 89. He was a member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and jumped the 1944 and 1945 seasons as a member of the CPS-103 jumpers. When he was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1943 from Columbiana, Ohio, he had one year of college and his occupation was listed as being a teacher.

As a smokejumper at Missoula in 1944, he had nine training and three fire jumps. In 1945 he had three training and two fire jumps. Ed was badly injured on a jump when a tree collapsed his parachute and he broke his back July 30, 1945, on a fire jump near Big Prairie, Montana.

Ed worked for the Crane/Demming Pump Co. in Salem, Ohio, for most of his adult life before moving to Barnesville.

George S. Leavitt (Missoula '44)

George died January 7, 2006, at age 83. He was born March 30, 1922, in St. Paul, MN. George graduated from St. Paul Central H.S. in 1939.

George was a member of the CPS-103 jumpers during WWII and jumped at Missoula during the 1944 season. He had seven training, three fire and one rescue jump.

George graduated from Macalester College and received his Ph.D. from U.C. Berkeley. He was an avid tennis player and runner and loved to discuss ideas and politics. George was a Professor of Social Psychology at Fresno State University for 35 year and was retired living in Santa Cruz, California.

Allen D. “Dean” Lehman (Missoula '44)

Dean died May 3, 1991, in Palm Desert, California. He was the son of a minister of the Church of the Brethren and a CPS-103 jumper during WWII. Dean entered Civilian Public Service in 1943 and jumped at McCall during the 1944-45 seasons. He got three fire jumps in 1944 and seven during the busy 1945 season.

After the war, Dean received his bachelor's degree from Manchester College in 1946 and his master's from Colorado University in 1953.

He taught business in secondary schools, spending 25 years teaching in Redondo Beach, California. He spent nine years on the State Board of the California Teachers Association before retiring to Palm Desert in 1982.

Wallace W. “Pic” Littell (Missoula '44)

Pic, NSA Life Member and CPS-103 jumper, died May 28, 2007. He was a member of the Methodist Church and was drafted into Civilian Public Service from Portage, Montana, in 1943.

He jumped at Missoula 1944-45 and NCSB 1947-48. During the 1944 season he had 11 jumps and follow that with two practice, five fire and two rescue jumps in 1945.

Pic was one of the few CPS jumpers to be hired into the smokejumpers after WWII. Francis Lufkin at the Winthrop, Washington, smokejumper base did not have any reservations about hiring CPS jumpers after the war.

Pic graduated from Cornell College in Iowa in 1947, received his master's degree in political science from Columbia University and his Russian certificate from the Harriman Institute. Pic worked for the U.S. Information Agency and retired in 1985 as head of the Moscow office. During his 30-plus-year career, he held many assignments in Eastern Europe. Pic, and his close smokejumper friend, Ben Conner, both were members of the 1947 NCAA championship wrestling team from Cornell College (IA). The team was honored in a June 2007 ceremony at the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Gordon H. Miller (McCall '44)

The Rev. Gordon H. Miller died August 3, 2009, in Dallas, Texas. He was born in 1925. Gordon was a member of the Methodist Church and joined the Civilian Public Service after graduating from high school in 1943 and jumped at McCall during the 1944 and '45 seasons. He got three fire jumps in 1944 and seven during the '45 season.

Gordon graduated from the University of Texas in 1957 and received his divinity degree from Southern Methodist University. As a pastor he ministered mostly in small towns in south and west Texas. He retired in 1989 but came back to the pulpit in 1997 ending his career as associate pastor of the Elmwood United Methodist Church in Oak Cliff, Texas, in 2002.

Leland Miller (Missoula '44)

Lee of Spokane Valley, Washington, died September 17, 2014. He was born in a Mennonite community near Marion, South Dakota, in 1921. Lee attended local schools, was an avid hunter, loved to sing and graduated from high school in 1939.

He entered Civilian Public Service in 1942 and was stationed at La Pine, Oregon, where he learned to fell and climb trees, drive a bulldozer, and put out forest fires. Lee reported to the smokejumper unit in 1944. "The CPS camps were really just an extension of my local Mennonite community, but the smokejumper unit was a whole new perspective. Many of these guys had actually made their decision to be pacifists in the face of tremendous opposition from their communities." Lee jumped with the CPS-103 smokejumpers in 1944 and 1945.

After the war he returned to South Dakota but eventually moved to Sioux Falls, Iowa, and worked for the Caterpillar dealership with heavy equipment. In 1965 he moved to the Spokane area still working with the Caterpillar dealership and worked there until 1984 when he retired.

"I hope that in some way I have helped someone to carry on the mission to bring together the human race as caring and sharing brothers and sisters."

Norman McClare Moody (McCall '44)

Norman, 93, of Marshall, Arkansas, died August 4, 2016, at home. He was born February 9, 1923, in Mussorie, Uttarakhnad, India to missionary parents. Norman registered for the draft on June 30, 1942. During 1944-45 fire seasons he served as one of the Civilian Public Service

smokejumpers at McCall where he made two fire jumps in 1944 and eight in the busy 1945 season.

Norman attended the University of Kentucky in Lexington where he was a distance runner on the U of Kentucky track team's successful 1949 season. He married in 1949. Norman held a master's degree in Agronomy and was an accomplished collector of palms, rare tropical plants, and an avid gardener.

Lawrence R. Morgan (Missoula '44)

Larry died June 5, 2007, in Spokane Valley, Washington. He was born February 1, 1919. After graduating from high school in 1936, he began working in the photography business. Larry was a member of the Disciples of Christ Church and was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1942 from Opportunity, Washington.

He reported to CPS-103 at Nine Mile in 1944 for smokejumper training and jumped the 1944-45 seasons before being discharged in 1946. Larry got eight practice and one fire jump in 1944 and three practice, eight fire and one rescue jump during the 1945 season.

After the war, Larry returned to the photography business and later owned one of the largest photo business in the Northwest. He retired from the photography business after 57 years.

Frank E. Neufeld (Missoula'44)

Frank died October 23, 2004, in Fresno, California. He was born January 12, 1917, in Buhler, KS, the son of a blacksmith. IN 1921 the family moved to Parlier, CA. After high school he earned his AA degree from Reedley College and was a member of the Mennonite Church.

He was part of the CPS-103 jumpers during WWII and jumped out of Missoula. Frank was stationed at Big Prairie making 15 jumps during the 1944 season.

Frank graduated from Fresno State University and later earned a Master's in Education from the University of Southern California.

He worked 28 years in education serving as a teacher, principal, and superintendent. Frank was active in Bible study groups and Jail Ministries. He traveled extensively around the world visiting missionaries.

Elmer W. Neufeld (Cave Junction '44)

Elmer Neufeld died June 18, 2001, in Boise, Idaho, at age 80. He grew up in Inman, Kansas, was a member of the Mennonite Church, and was drafted into the Civilian Public Service as a Conscientious Objector in 1942.

While at a CPS camp in 1943, he heard of the CPS-103 smokejumper unit that was being formed. Elmer was accepted in 1944 and joined the jumpers at Cave Junction, Oregon. In 1945 he transferred to the North Cascades Smokejumper base, where he worked until 1970. He was one of the few Conscientious Objectors to be hired as smokejumpers after WWII.

In the spring of 1970, Elmer became a technical representative for a fire-retardant company and worked that position for the next 16 years. From 1986 until 1996, he ran the retardant base for a contract company which provided retardant for the USFS and BLM in Boise.

Joseph C. Osborn (Missoula '44)

Joseph died March 28, 1993, at age 81. He was born August 16, 1911, in Muncie, IN. He was a descendant of many generations of Quakers and served with the CPS-103 smokejumpers at Missoula during WWII. Joseph was drafted out of Muncie, Indiana, and his listed occupation at that time was Teacher.

He joined the CPS smokejumper unit but was injured on his second practice jump and finished that season on a Lookout. He came back in the 1944 season and had ten practice and two fire jumps. Joe returned in the 1945 season and got three practice and five fire jumps.

He received his bachelor's degree in Engineering from Purdue in 1933 and his master's from the University of Michigan in 1946. He taught applied mechanics at Purdue from 1936-42 before entering the Civilian Public Service.

After WWII he taught at Lehigh University from 1946-48, Montana State 1948-53, 1954-55 at Michigan State. He then returned to Lehigh and taught until his retirement in 1980.