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Smokejumper biographies for 1945 rookie class, A - Hershberger

National Smokejumper Association

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1945 Smokejumper Rookies

Amstutz through Jonas Hershberger

Ivan C. Amstutz (McCall '45)

Ivan, 86, died July 13, 2012, in Kidron, Ohio. He was born in 1926 and drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1944 from Dalton, Ohio. He was a Mennonite and his occupation at that time was listed as "Farmer." Ivan attended Hesston and Goshen colleges before serving as a CPS-103 jumper from McCall. In addition to his training jumps, he had seven fire jumps during the busy 1945 season.

After his discharge in 1946, Ivan returned to Ohio and was a dairy farmer with registered jerseys and he also worked in the insurance and banking industries.

Donald B. Armstrong (McCall '45)

Don died April 17, 1990, of malignant melanoma. He was a resident of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Don was born June 23, 1915, and drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1945 from Scarborough, New York.

He jumped at McCall during the 1945 season and got seven fire jumps during that season.

Edward M Arnett (Missoula '45)

Ned was born September 25, 1922, in Philadelphia and was a Quaker. He was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1944 and his occupation at the time was listed as "College Instructor." Ned had six practice jumps and was one of the higher men on the crew with seven fire jumps that season. In 2012, he published a Memoir book: *A Different Kind of War Story: A Conscientious Objector in World War II*.

Ned earned his undergraduate and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and began teaching at the University of Pittsburgh in 1957. He joined the faculty at Duke University in 1980 and, three years later, was named a member of the National Academy of Sciences. At Duke, he was appointed the R.J. Reynolds Professor of Chemistry and retired in 1992.

Otto Bartel (North Cascades '45)

Otto, 81, died December 4, 2004, in Goessel, Kansas. He was born September 17, 1923, in Hillsboro, Kansas, and was a member of the Mennonite Church. Otto was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1945 from Hillsboro, Kansas and his occupation was listed as "Farmer." He

jumped at North Cascades during the 1945 season and served in two more camps before his discharge in 1946.

Otto returned to Goessel and was a life-long farmer. He is buried in the Goessel Cemetery

Beals, David Ellis “Skinny” (McCall '45)

Skinny was born May 1925 in Bellevue, Pennsylvania. Shortly afterward he moved with his family to Wichita, Kansas, where he graduated from high school in 1943. Skinny registered for the military draft on May 27, 1943, and in lieu of entering the military, he joined the Civilian Public Service as a Conscientious Objector as a Mennonite on December 8, 1943. He entered the CPS program at a camp in Colorado Springs, Colorado. While there he was assigned to a human research facility on the east coast for a short period of time testing human endurance under various physical conditions before returning to Colorado Springs.

In 1945, Skinny started his smokejumper career when he reported to the CPS smokejumper camp at Nine Mile in Huson, Montana. He reflected that on one of his training jumps, his Eagle parachute opened so fast and hard that it snapped his helmet off. After training at the smokejumper CPS camp, he spent the summer as a smokejumper at McCall, Idaho. Between July 25 and September 2, 1945, he had eight fire jumps. The last fire was on the Wallowa National Forest when he jumped with three others from a Travelair airplane to the Horse Creek Fire, a large Class E fire. After they jumped, a DC-3 load of black paratroopers from the 555th Airborne in Pendleton, Oregon jumped to the fire.

After smokejumping in 1945, Skinny returned to CPS camps in Colorado Springs and Belton, Montana. Upon termination of the CPS program, he was hired by Francis Lufkin at the North Cascades Smokejumper Base in 1947. He continued working there through 1963 except for a three-year hiatus. When the Redmond Smokejumper Base at Redmond, Oregon, opened in 1964, he transferred there as the parachute loft foreman. He continued as the loft foreman until his retirement in 1976 after a 29-year career as a Forest Service and CPS smokejumper.

When Skinny moved to Redmond it was predictable that he ate dinner at his favorite local café every evening and in his spare time build his personal television from parts. Everyone thought he was a confirmed bachelor until he married Wilma Charlene Wales in 1970. Skinny died October 10, 2006, in Yamhill, Oregon. His memorial is at the Deschutes Memorial Gardens, Bend, Oregon.

Ralph C. Belzer (Missoula '45)

Ralph was born October 20, 1924, in Glasgow, Montana. He died December 1, 1995, at age 71. He grew up on a family farm outside Glasgow and went through all grades through high school there.

In 1943 Ralph worked on the construction of Shasta Dam in Northern California. He was a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses and went into Civilian Public Service in 1944.

Ralph trained as a smokejumper in 1945 and was stationed at the Schaffer Ranger Station working trails and maintaining telephone lines. "One time we walked 13 miles to work and 13 miles back."

After the war he returned to Glasgow and worked carpentry and painting until his retirement.

Luke Amon Birky (Missoula '45)

Luke is still alive and living (2021) in Goshen, Indiana. He was born January 8, 1922, on a farm near Airlie, Oregon. Luke is the descendent of Swiss and German Mennonite grandparents that came to the U.S. in the 1700s. He remembers being beaten up several times during school by bullies testing his faith and belief of "non-resistance."

He worked on the family farm until he was drafted in the CPS in 1943. He started out in La Pine, Oregon, before joining the smokejumpers in 1945. Luke made seven practice, seven fire, and two rescue jumps.

Luke was discharged in 1946 and returned to Oregon where he worked as a mechanic/welder before enrolling in Goshen College in Indiana. He married in 1947 and he and his wife went to Puerto Rico at the request of the Mennonite Central Committee to do work for the needy.

They returned to the states in 1954 and moved to Colorado where Luke became a hospital administrator at La Junta. In 1966 they move to Elkhart, Indiana, where he was Secretary of Health and Welfare for the Mennonite Board of Missions. Then back to Albany, Oregon, in 1979 where Luke assumed direction of a Mennonite retirement program. He retired in 1987 while working another program in Costa Rica.

"Smokejumping—I'd do it all again. Living with people of conviction but from varied backgrounds and perspectives became a time of evaluation and maturing. It was a time to increase vision of what it meant to be a follower of the Prince of Peace and become more socially responsible."

William B. Bristol (North Cascades '45)

Bill was born April 13, 1915, and died October 24, 2003, at age 88 in Schenectady, New York. He grew up in Germantown, PA, and graduated

from Gettysburg College in 1936 before moving on to the University of Pennsylvania for graduate study. He taught 1939-40 at the University of Puerto Rico before being inducted into the Civilian Public Service in 1942.

Bill joined the smokejumpers for the 1945 season. "After training at Nine Mile, I was one of about ten jumpers who made the unit at Twisp. I made a total of seven training and three fire jumps. One day in our barracks in Twisp one of the fellows was reading a statistical report on the educational background of smokejumpers. Suddenly exclaimed, 'one guy has 20 years of education.' I concluded that I was that guy."

After graduating from Gettysburg College, he earned his Ph.D. in History from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a visiting professor at the University of Puerto Rico for one year and taught at Princeton University before coming to Union College in 1948 to teach Latin American History.

Professor Bristol traveled extensively in Central and South America. He made several trips to pursue research on protestant missionary activities in Colombia and investigated fruit companies in Costa Rica and Honduras. Professor Bristol led several Union College student groups to Bogota, Colombia. He wrote a monograph about Cuba for the American Friends Service Committee and reviewed more than 45 books for Choice, a leader in academic reviews. He was a frequent speaker locally on non-violence and on Latin American topics.

James Irving Bruff, MD (McCall '45)

Doctor James Irving Bruff, 88, died in Whittier, California, on March 4, 2011. He was born in Seoul, Korea, on November 11, 1922, while his parents were on a medical mission. He jumped during the 1945 fire season as one of the Civilian Public Service jumpers and had five fire jumps.

James graduated from Whittier College with a bachelor's degree and entered medical school at the University of California San Francisco. His wife, Joyce, was a bacteriologist at UCSF. After medical school and an internship at Los Angeles County USC hospital, he joined his father in medical practice in Whittier. Both he and his father were supportive and actively involved in Presbyterian Hospital's development and staff activities.

In practice for decades, he attended many births, performed surgery, was an astute diagnostician and caring family physician. He was chairman of the Department of Family Medicine and active in the medical community. He enjoyed flying and was a capable pilot. He is buried at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier, California.

Charles William Brunk (Missoula '45)

Charles, 63, died March 27, 1989, in Cortez, Colorado. He was born February 6, 1926, in Colmar Manor, Maryland. He was a member of the Mennonite Church and drafted into Civilian Public Service from Phoenix, Arizona, in 1944. He jumped at Missoula during the 1945 season where he made seven training and two fire jumps.

James R. “Jim” Brunk (Missoula '45)

Jim died December 3, 2015, at Oak Lea of Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community. He was born May 25, 1926, in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Jim's father was a history teacher at Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg. He graduated from Eastern Mennonite H.S. at age 16 in 1941 and was drafted into Civilian Public Service (CPS) in 1943.

Jim was chosen for smokejumper training in 1945. He was one of the jumpers who helped pack the seriously injured Archie Keith over 16 miles of dead falls and no trail. Jim made one of the “cattle ship” trips to Europe before being discharged from CPS.

He enrolled in Eastern Mennonite College and then obtained his medical degree from the University of Virginia. He worked at the Blue Ridge Sanatorium in Charlottesville for seven years, before returning to the Univ. of Virginia for two more years of training in Internal Medicine. Jim then returned to his hometown and practiced medicine in Harrisonburg, VA, until his retirement in the mid-1990s.

He had served on many boards including Gideons International and the Appalachian Area of the National Ski Patrol. Jim has contributed several articles of historical significance to Smokejumper magazine.

Edmund Dantes Christopherson Jr. (Missoula '45)

Edmund, 55, died October 14, 1974, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, of a fractured spinal column. He was attending an American Travel Writers convention and was swimming in the ocean when a strong wave threw him on the beach injuring him severely. He was born November 20, 1918, in Lakewood, Ohio, where his father was a high school teacher.

Edmund graduated from Case Western Reserve University in 1940. During college he became a Quaker. He refused to enter war-industry work and worked for Arthur E. Morgan and helped to set up the Celo Community in North Carolina. He was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1943 and jumped at Missoula during the 1945 season where he made seven practice and two fire jumps.

After his discharge he made Missoula his headquarters for his free-lance writing career. He wrote primarily about Montana and the Northwest with

articles appearing in the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Holiday*, *This Week*, *Outdoor Life*, *Readers Digest*, *Popular Science*, the *NY Times*, and many others. Ed wrote several books including *Westward I go Free*, *The Night the Mountain Fell*, *Behold the Grand Tetons*, *This Here is Montana*, and *Adventure Among the Glaciers*.

Joseph H. Coffin (Missoula '45)

Joe died February 21, 2010, in La Verne, California. He was a member of the CPS-103 jumpers and jumped at Missoula during the 1945 season.

He was born November 15, 1919, in Richmond, Indiana. Joe moved to California from Indiana in 1923 when his father was appointed dean of Whittier College. He graduated from Whittier H.S. where he was active in sports, theatre, and student government.

Joe entered Whittier College and was active in theatre and picked up some bit parts at Columbia Studios and a feature role in one film in 1938. He Joe graduated from Whittier, a Quaker college, in 1941.

Joe entered Civilian Public Service in 1942, first in California and transferring to Spokane, WA where he heard about smokejumping. He jumped the 1945 season with six training and three fire jumps.

Joe spent his professional career teaching Auto Mechanics at the high school level. He and his wife, Audine, started a television research and survey company that later merged into the American Research Bureau.

Throughout his life, he was involved in peace functions, community and with the First Friends Church.

Weldon H. Cook (McCall '45)

Weldon died June 24, 1977, in Earlham, Iowa. He was born April 20, 1925, in St. Charles, Iowa and was a Quaker. He was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1943 from Earlham and his occupation at that time was listed as "Grocery Clerk." Weldon jumped at McCall during the 1945 season and had seven fire jumps in addition to his training jumps.

Wardell Alphonzo Davis (Missoula '45)

Wardell, 51, the first African American smokejumper, died in January 1977 in Camden, New Jersey. He was born February 11, 1926, in Lynchburg, Virginia, where his father was listed as a "farm laborer." By 1940 the family had moved to Philadelphia where his father was employed as a paper baler. Wardell was 14, one of 12 children, and a member of the First Gospel Church He was drafted into Civilian Public Service in April 1944.

Wardell jumped at Missoula during the 1945 season and had seven training and three fire jumps. He was discharged in 1946 and returned to Philadelphia where he married Earlene Edwards in 1948. Wardell married Mollie Craft in 1973.

Vincent Freed Detweiler (North Cascades '45)

Vincent jumped at NCSB during the 1945 and 1947 seasons. He was born February 19, 1926, and was living in Santa Rosa, California, at last record.

Clarence W. Dirks (Missoula '45)

Clarence died May 20, 1996, in Federal Way, WA. He was born February 20, 1923, in Durham, Kansas, to Mennonite parents. His family, which included 12 children, moved to Kansas about 1929.

"I was in my first year of school at the time, having begun without being able to speak a word of English." The depression hit and in 1937 "my father gave up on Kansas, sold everything--we ended up with \$69 and being bankrupt."

They traveled to Northern Idaho, "all of us in a truck along with a crate of chickens." The family was successful at farming and his father, a Mennonite minister, paid off the Kansas debts. Clarence worked at a local sawmill and then with the USFS before being inducted in the Civilian Public Service.

He jumped at Missoula during the 1945 season. "I jumped on quite a few fires including one where my main chute did not open, and I had to use my emergency chute."

After his discharge, Clarence returned to Bonners Ferry, Idaho, and ended up working the heavy construction industry. He started his own construction business before taking a position with the Army Corps of Engineers in 1964. Clarence was with the Corps of Engineers for 24 years before retiring.

Conrad J. Downing (Missoula '45)

Conrad died June 20, 2004. He was born in 1926 and was a Quaker. Conrad was drafted into Civilian Public Service from Salem, Virginia in 1944 and he was listed as a "Student" at that time. Clarence jumped at Missoula during the 1945 season and had seven training and two fire jumps.

After his discharge he earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the Univ. of New Mexico in 1952. He was employed by ITT for many years and worked on the development of the Night Vision Program.

Warren Ferris Downs (Missoula '45)

Warren, 94, cellist (cello) and environmentalist, died January 12, 2020, in Madison, Wisconsin. He was born March 23, 1925, in Salem, Oregon, where he attended schools including his Freshman year at Willamette University during the '42-'43 school year. His father was a physician. Warren was a member of the Methodist Church and entered the Civilian Public Service (CPS) in November 1943 as an alternative to military service.

Warren was initially assigned to the CPS camp at Cascade Locks, Oregon and in 1945 transferred to the Missoula CPS camp and smokejumper base. He jumped four fires during the 1945 season before transferring to the CPS base in Waldport, Oregon, which was developing a "School for Fine Arts." He was later transferred to the infamous CPS "punishment camp" in Minersville, California, after he and others in Waldport supported the work strike at Cascade Locks.

After his release from the CPS, Warren obtained his BS from Oberlin College and his master's degree from Eastman School of Music. He played in the Denver Symphony (1952), St. Louis Orchestra (1953-1956) and the Cleveland Orchestra (1956-1971).

Due to his growing interest in environmental issues, he moved from Cleveland to Madison, Wisconsin, where he obtained a master's degree in Journalism at the University of Wisconsin (UW). Warren then worked many years as a writer for the UW's Wisconsin Sea Grant Program, a program of basic and applied research, education, outreach, and technology transfer dedicated to the stewardship and sustainable use of the nation's Great Lakes and ocean resources. He continued to play cello for the Madison Symphony Orchestra (1973-1998) and in a variety of other music groups.

Elon Henry Eash (Cave Junction '45)

Elon, 87, died January 22, 2010, in Archbold, Ohio. He was born July 31, 1922. Elon was a member of the Mennonite Church and was drafted into Civilian Public Service from Archbold, Ohio, and his occupation at the time was listed as "Farmer."

Elon joined the smokejumper unit in 1945 and was part of the group at Cave Junction, Oregon, on the Siskiyou N.F. He made 10 training the three fire jumps.

After his discharge in 1946 he did war relief work in France/German for 18 months before resuming work as a farmer.

Junior Duane Eberly (McCall '45)

Junior died January 27, 1996 in Colby, Kansas. He was born June 22, 1921, in Overbrook, Kansas and was a member of the Brethren Church. In 1942 he was living/working in McPherson, Kansas, for Santa Fe Trailway (bus co.) and was drafted into Civilian Public Service that year. J.D. jumped at McCall during the 1945 season and had eight fire jumps in addition to his training jumps.

Duane, the name he went by on official documents, left CPS in 1946 and was working at McPherson College in 1948 where he might have also been a student. He married and, with his wife Marie, raised four children in Colby, Kansas, where he taught in the Colby School District.

Joseph M. Eigsti (North Cascades '45)

Joseph, 91, died Sept. 3, 2013, in Goshen, Indiana. He was born in 1922. Due his Mennonite faith, he did not join the military during World War II but instead enrolled in the Civilian Public Service program for conscientious objectors. He was drafted out of Buda, Illinois, in 1943 and his occupation at the time was listed as "Farmer." Joseph jumped at North Cascades for the 1945 season.

After his discharge in 1946 he was a farmer and served as a school board member and on the Elkhart County Farm Bureau board.

Neilford "Neil" Harding Eller (Missoula '45)

Neil was born in near Cave Spring, Virginia, on July 5, 1924, and grew up on his parent's historic peach farm in the Roanoke Valley and died, only a few miles away, at age 88 on November 10, 2012, in Salem, Virginia. He was living at home and attending high school in Salem when he registered for the draft in December 1942.

Neil was a member of the Church of the Brethren and entered the Civilian Public Service (CPS) as a conscientious objector in March 1945. While assigned to the Cascade Locks, Oregon CPS camp, Neil volunteered for transfer and training to CPS Unit 103, at the Missoula Smokejumper Base. He made three fire jumps during the 1945 season.

He married Ida Mae Byer in October 1947 in Elgin Illinois.

Neil lived in the upper Midwest in the 1950s working as a factory worker and salesman. He returned to the family farm and worked there and as a

mechanic and heavy equipment salesman in the Salem area before retiring.

William Carey Evans (Missoula '45)

Carey died in October 1984, in Wyoming, Pennsylvania. He was born October 23, 1915, in Lansford, PA and was a member of the Baptist Church. Carey was drafted into Civilian Public Service from Wyoming, PA and his occupation at the time was listed as "Newspaper Circulation." He had a BA in Biology from Bethel College.

Carey had seven training, two fire and two rescue jumps during the 1945 season. After his discharge from CPS, he returned to Pennsylvania where his occupation was listed as "Fruit Farmer."

Dale E. Fickle (McCall '45)

Dale, 92, of McMinnville, Ore., formerly of McCall, passed away Monday Sept 1, 2003, at home. He was born in Denver on Sept 4, 1910, and moved to Boise at a young age. After high school, Dale worked as a physical director for the YMCA and as a coach at Boise Junior College.

Dale often was affiliated with youth organizations, such as the Boy Scouts. While training to be a smokejumper in Missoula, Dale met the love of his life. He and Gladys Gager Streeter were married in Lewiston on Feb 5, 1947.

Dale was a McCall Smokejumper for five years from 1945-1949. He was a squadleader each year. Notes indicate that he was a "discharged paratrooper." Later he worked as a dispatcher until retirement from the Payette National Forest. In 1978 Dale and Gladys relocated to McMinnville. He enjoyed playing bridge, hunting, fishing, and traveling.

Charles "Chuck" Eugene Frantz (Missoula '45)

Chuck died July 19, 2001, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, after a long and distinguished career as an anthropologist. He was born April 22, 1925, in Rocky Ford, Colorado and was raised with six brothers and a sister on their parent's poultry farm. He registered for the WWII draft the day after his 18th birthday and later was drafted while attending Northern Colorado College.

He entered the Civilian Public Service (CPS) as a conscientious objector, initially working at the Savanac Tree Nursery at Haugan on the Lolo NF, and in the potato fields of Aberdeen, Idaho.

Chuck made 3 fire jumps during the 1945 season and then continued his education at Earlham College where he graduated with a B.A. in 1950. He

obtained a M.A. from Haverford College in 1951 and his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago in 1958.

Chuck had strong feelings about the military draft and refused to register for the peacetime draft in 1948. In July 1949 he was sentenced to 90 days imprisonment. Chuck went on to marry in June 1950 and become a noted researcher/professor of anthropology and taught at SUNY-Buffalo, Portland State University, the University of Toronto, Howard University, and State University of New York-Buffalo and Amherst University.

Chuck was described by colleagues as a man of extremely strong ethics and a diligent and hard worker who protected his students and passed on these attributes to those around him.

Roger Lee Frantz (Cave Junction '45)

Roger died February 24, 2012, in Shafter, California. He was born June 21, 1926, in Durham, Kansas and was a member of the Mennonite Church. His occupation at the time he entered Civilian Public Service in 1944 was listed as "Farmer."

Roger joined the smokejumpers in 1945 and was stationed in Cave Junction, Oregon. He returned to farming after the war.

Richard Earl Frazer (Missoula '45)

Dick, 90, of Stevensville, MT, died February 23, 2014. He was born June 1, 1923, in Klein, Montana. In 1941 he attended Sentinel High school in Missoula where he played Football and ran Track. He enlisted in the Marines at age 17 during WWII and was on a troop transport that was torpedoed at sea.

He rookied at Missoula in 1945 and had seven training and three fire jumps. Dick also jumped the 1946 season. He returned to Stevensville where he spent most of his life and was the oldest member of American Legion Post 94. He is buried in Stevensville, Montana

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where he spent most of his life and was the oldest member of American Legion Post 94. He is buried in Stevensville, Montana.

Ray N. Funk (Missoula '45)

Ray died December 27, 2008. He grew up on a family farm near Hillsboro, Kansas, where he grew up working on a threshing crew where the "horsepower" was provided by a team of mules. Ray finished grade school in Hillsboro and was active in track, basketball, and football.

Ray graduated from Bethel College (the first Mennonite college founded in North America) where he lettered in and played football for four years. He was a member of the CPS-103 smokejumper at Missoula during the 1946 season making 14 jumps that season. Ray then did a tour on one of the "cattle boats" headed to Poland after the war.

In 1946 Ray and his wife worked with the Mennonite Church in Paraguay for two years. He was involved in "Gambles," a bowling center for 30 years and hosted many tours to countries of Mennonite historical significance.

Ray served on the Hillsboro Board of Zoning and Planning Commission for many years.

John E. Garber (McCall '45)

John died April 4, 2006, at his home in Hubbard, Oregon. He was born on a farm near Alpha, MN, on November 14, 1923. He attended schools in Woodburn and Molalla and worked in the woods until he was drafted and served as a conscientious objector in the Civilian Public Service. His CPS service included smokejumping in Idaho and maintenance work in Glacier National Park. He had six fire jumps at McCall during the 1945 season.

The following 40 years John worked as a farm hand, factory laborer, construction worker, residential contractor, and excavator. He also owned a small farm.

John actively participated with Christian missions and organizations devoted to helping others. He organized relief trips and traveled to Columbia, Mexico, Honduras and to various states in association with Mennonite Disaster Services.

Raymond Clare Gardner (Missoula '45)

Ray, 73, died May 2, 1993, in Spokane, Washington. He was born July 6, 1919, in Centerville, South Dakota. Ray was in the 82nd Airborne in WWII and jumped the 1945 season at Missoula. He got seven practice and five fire jumps. He enlisted in the Army in 1939 and was discharged in June

1945 just before smokejumper training. Ray worked at Ryerson Steel in Spokane retiring in 1980.

Chalmer C. Gillin (Cave Junction '45)

Chal, 89, died January 22, 2015. He was born January 25, 1925, in Mineral Point, PA. He graduated from East Conemaugh H.S. (Pennsylvania) in 1943.

Chal was working for the B&O railroad when he was drafted into the Civilian Public Service in 1944.

He worked at several camps before volunteering for the smokejumpers and reported to Nine Mile Camp for training. After training he was sent to the Cave Junction, Oregon, smokejumper base.

After the war, Chal worked as a truck driver and shipping department manager retiring in 1987 after 44 years with Glosser Brothers in Johnstown, PA.

Chal was a member of the Church of the Brethren, one of the three "Peace Churches" that made up most of the CPS smokejumpers from 1943-45.

Robert Clarence Goering (North Cascades '45)

Bob, 56, died April 16, 1982. He was born November 13, 1925, in Moundridge, KS and was a member of the Mennonite Church. Bob was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1944 from Moundridge where his occupation was listed as "Student." He jumped at North Cascades during the 1945 season.

After the war, he returned to Kansas where he completed his BA at Bethel College. He followed that with his M.D. and worked as Associate Pathologist at St. Joseph Hospital in Kansas City, KS.

Albert L. Gray (Cave Junction '45)

Professor emeritus Gray died August 5, 2005, in Berea, Ohio. Albert was a CPS-103 jumper during WWII and was active throughout his life in civil rights, nonviolence and poverty problems in the U.S. and Third World.

He was a professor of economics at Baldwin-Wallace University for 27 years and taught at Drexel, Smith College and Rust College. Even after mandatory retirement age of 70, Albert continued to teach one term a year.

Albert graduated from Drexel University, received his master's from Boston University and a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.

In an earlier issue of Smokejumper magazine, Albert told of the time in August 1945, when he explained what an Atomic Bomb was to the crew at Cave Junction. He had eight fire jumps during the 1945 season at CJ.

Albert also taught at American University in Cairo, Egypt, and in Nigeria. In retirement he and wife volunteered to teach at two African American schools in the south: Philander Smith College in Little Rock, AR, and Rust College in MS.

Millard W. "Bill" Green (Cave Junction '45)

Bill jumped at CJ 1945-50. Not much can be found about Bill but Al Boucher (CJ-49), in his notes, say a bit about him. "One of the most colorful jumpers was Millard "Bill" Green. He was the oldest jumper and had been jumping since the middle of WWII. During the winter he worked for the USFS in Redding, and during the summer as a squadleader at Cave Junction.

"He was a pioneer in air operations in Region 5 and I was told that he was the first person carried on a stretcher on the outside of a helicopter during a test. During WWII he spotted members of the Triple Nickle on several fires."

Willard D. Handrich (Missoula '45)

Willard died October 6, 2006, with his son and daughter-in-law when their boat capsized while on Lake Superior. He was born December 25, 1916, in Fairview, Michigan. Willard grew up on a 160-acre farm near Fairview and grew up loving hunting and trapping in addition to hard work on the farm. The family was involved in the large Mennonite community.

Willard attended a one-room school for the early grades and graduated from Fairview Agricultural H.S. in 1935. Following a short course in Dairy Production at Michigan State University, he took a job working for the county dairy association. He followed that with three years with the Soil Conservation office. Willard wanted to get out of office work— "My body was getting soft, and I figured I need to work for the Farmer's Co-op and lift 150-pound bags of seed."

In 1942 he was drafted into Civilian Public Service. Willard was accepted into the CPS smokejumpers at Missoula for the 1945 season and made seven fire jumps during that season.

Willard was an ordained minister and pastored the Grand Marais, Michigan, Mennonite Church for 31 years. He was also a self-employed woodsman and owned and operated Grand Marais Industries from 1966 to 1978.

John L. Harnish Jr. (Cave Junction '45)

John died March 14, 2006, in Traverse City, Michigan. He was a member of the Mennonite Church and was drafted into Civilian Public Service from Eureka, Illinois, in 1942. His occupation at that time was listed as "Painter."

During the 1945 season, he served with the CPS-103 jumpers at Cave Junction. Later he worked for the Mennonite Board of Missions and Bethel Publishing as a graphic artist. John retired from Bethel Publishing as a department supervisor of graphic artists. He was active with Mission Manistee, Manistee Audubon Society, and the Lake Bluff Audubon Society.

Richard Townsend Henley (Missoula '45)

Richard, 84, died August 30, 2004, in Crystal, Minnesota. He was born June 29, 1920, in Sublette, Kansas and was a Quaker. Richard was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1943 from Denver, Colorado, where his occupation was listed as "Salesman." He jumped at Missoula during the 1945 season and had seven training and four fire jumps.

After the war he married Jean Hayes in 1948. His occupation was in the printing industry and is listed as "Press Operator."

Jonas D. Hershberger (Missoula '45)

Joe Hershberger, age 80, passed away on Thursday, June 22, 2006, in Delaware, Ohio, surrounded by his wife of 50 years and his two daughters. He was born April 8, 1926, in Farmerstown, Ohio, and grew up on a small farm in the Amish Country and was a member of the Mennonite Old Order Amish.

He was drafted into Civilian Public Service from Sugarcreek, Ohio, in 1944 and was a CPS-103 smokejumper in Montana in 1945. He had only four practice jumps and two fire jumps during that season. In an unusual turn of events, he was drafted again in 1950 and entered the Army to serve in the Korean conflict.

Joe was self-employed as a heavy equipment operator for many years, and was active in church, the VFW and American Legion, The Darby Valley Conservation Club, in and around the Plain City area (central Ohio). He was deeply devoted to his family, his country, and to the mission and values of the NSA. He was very proud of his service and went out of his way to tell others of the sacrifices smokejumpers made, continue to make, in the line of duty.

