

9-6-2023

Smokeyumper biographies for 1957 rookie class

National Smokeyumper Association

John M. Austin (McCall '57)

John died April 5, 2017. His last known address showed him living in Tucson, Arizona. He graduated from the University of Idaho in 1959, jumped at McCall 1957-58 and Idaho City in 1959. John was in the USAF 1959-60 and worked for IBM 1960 until his retirement in 1992. Upon retirement his split time residing in the Florida Keys and Dillon, Colorado.

Melvin Eugene Berrien (Redding '57)

Mel, 84, of Hayfork, California, died January 10, 2014. He was a Korean War veteran serving in the Army from 1951-53, and re-enlisting and serving in France until his discharge in 1955. He then began his USFS career as a fire crewman at Trinity Center on the Shasta-Trinity N.F.

Mel was in the original crew that started the Redding Smokejumper Base in 1957 and trained at Cave Junction before coming south. He jumped the '57 season and transferred to other USFS fire positions in the Shasta-T and El Dorado National Forests. His last position was as a fire prevention officer on the Hayfork Ranger District.

He retired from the Hayfork Ranger District in 1983 after 30 years, and then continued working in a volunteer capacity for another 30 years. The majority of the volunteer time involved inventorying and maintaining signs and gates on the road systems all over the "Trinity side" of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Douglas M. "Doug" Bird (McCall '57)

Doug was born September 2, 1938, in Salina, Utah. "I was raised in Salina, and Ephraim, Utah, and went to school in Casper, Wyoming. I always say I grew up in McCall, Idaho. McCall is where I learned how to work, when and how to play, how to be a team member and a team leader. The smokejumpers taught me how to be an ethical, capable, and contributing adult. I graduated from Natrona County High School in 1956. Ran track and wrestled in high school.

"I graduated from Utah State University with a bachelor's in Forestry in 1960 and got a master's in 1961. Received another MS from Univ. of California, Berkeley, with an emphasis in wildland fire management, in 1967.

“I spent six years in army ROTC but no active service because of a knee injury from falling out of a big Doug Fir tree when I was in the jumpers.

I went to work for the Forest Service at age 16 and was hired as the 23rd guy on a 25-man brush crew on the Payette NF. I spent more time fighting fires than piling brush. The next year I was promoted to a GS-3 Fire Control Aid, ground-pounding fires, pulling shifts as a lookout, and doing the fire prevention patrolman job on the Hornet Creek RD. As soon as I turned 18, I got hired as a smokejumper. More income, more glory and more fun! I worked with and learned from a really great bunch of men.

“In the spring of 1961 my new bride, Elaine, and I were transferred from the jumpers to the Sitgreaves NF in Holbrook Arizona as a Junior Forester on the Heber RD. Because I had been a smokejumper, I was immediately sent to set-up and train two 25-man fire crews on the Navajo Reservation. I spent all that 1961 fire season with my 50 Navajos on large project fires in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and California.

“In January of 1962, after only seven months as a JF, we were transferred to the Tonto NF Supervisors’ office in Phoenix, AZ, as Assistant Fire Staff. For the next two years I ran the fire suppression job on the Tonto, fought project fires throughout Region 3 and taught fire courses in Marana, Arizona. In Marana I interfaced a lot with Intermountain Aviation and all the “Laos” jumper buddies.

“We were then transferred to the Gila NF as the District Ranger on the Mimbres RD. Mimbres District was a high-fire workload district, maybe the highest lightning fire incidents in the nation. I remember in one 24-hour period, we took initial action on 102 fire starts. Several Silver City jumpers got two fire jumps that day on my district. Dick Tracy was running the New Mexico jumper unit in Silver City, and he would let me get a couple, unofficial, ‘refresher jumps’ now and then just so I could have the title “jumping ranger.’ I even once won a six-pack from Max Allen getting closer to the spot.

“After getting the Ranger’s job, which is the second-best job after smokejumper in the Forest Service, I spent the next 20 years moving around the US. I went to California to do some fire ecology research, Job Corps Center Director in New Mexico, Chief’s office in D.C., Branch Chief in the RO in Missoula, Deputy Supervisor on the Lolo NF, National Fire Suppression Staff at BIFC (now NIFC), Forest Supervisor on the Wayne-Hoosier NF and then my dream job—Regional Director of Aviation and Fire Management for the Intermountain Region in Ogden, Utah. I was one of the so called “Fire Gods” in the Forest Service. I even had authority over the McCall jumper base. Wow! I spent the last 10 years of my FS career as the Director of Aviation and Fire Management and then retired from the FS in 1990.

“I then moved into the international wildfire management arena and worked for the United Nations, World Bank, the German Government, the UK ODA (Overseas Development Agency), Indonesia, Thailand and other nations and other international organizations. Elaine and I lived full-time for four years on the big island of Borneo where I set-up and ran a prototype fire management project which became the wildfire management system for the entire country of Indonesia. Did wildfire management projects throughout Asia and Central and South America. Worked in over 20 different nations and all the continents except Antarctica. Fifteen years of good times, great people, lots of new experiences and some really great stories I get to tell the grandkids now and then.

“We came back to the best country in the world, the good old USA, in 2005. FEMA contacted me and I’ve worked on natural disasters for the next 12 years. I did two to five disastrous floods, fires, winds, etc. per year up to 2017. Then I “quit that outfit” because of too much politics and paperwork.

“We moved many times during the last 61 years. Lived on both coasts and both borders of the USA. Elaine says the only time she gets a little bit homesick is when she sees a moving van.

“I now have retired again. We live on the Arizona\Utah border in Saint George, UT. Come see us sometime. It’s always sunny and warm.

“I have had a great life and a great career. Helped to raise three superb kids who are now contributing greatly to our nation and our society. Elaine has been my support and teacher and traveling companion for 61 years. We have 8 grandkids and five great grandkids who are bringing lots of fun and joy into our lives.”

Doug jumped at McCall 1957-60.

Jon B. Bledsoe (Missoula '57)

Jon was born December 8, 1937, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and grew up in Lawton and graduated from high school in 1955. He furthered his education at the University of Oklahoma (1955-57) and earned a degree in Forest Management from the University of Idaho in 1960. Jon jumped at Missoula 1957-59.

He then started a 34-year career with the USFS. First as a dispatcher at the Moose Creek RS 1960, Forester Nez Perce NF 1960-64, Resource Assn't. Nez Perce 1964-68, Supervisory Forester Bitterroot NF 1968-71, District Ranger Idaho Panhandle NR 1971-74, District Ranger Clearwater NF 1974-93 (retired).

“In 1958, three jumpers and myself made a trip to Glacier N.P. for the weekend. We had planned on swimming in St. Mary lake with the girls at the Lodge. The water was freezing cold, so the swimming party turned into a beer drinking party except for one girl from Germany and myself. I visited with her for an hour or so and learned that she would be returning to Germany in two weeks. I knew that I would probably never see her again, but we exchanged mailing addresses. There is a lot more to the story. We have been married for 63 years and live on 30 acres of timberland a couple miles from Elk City, Idaho. Smokejumping was good to me in many ways!”

Edmund E. Bloedel Jr. (Missoula '57)

Ed was born September 7, 1935, in Janesville, Wisconsin, where he grew up and graduated from high school in 1953. He received a bachelor's degree in Forestry/Range Management from the University of Montana in 1958 and did graduate work at Montana and Utah State University.

Ed started his work career as a Lookout on the Flathead N.F. in 1956 and rookied at Missoula in 1957 where he jumped for one season. His USFS career followed: 1958-59 Forester Beaverhead N.F., 1960-61 Assistant Ranger Beaverhead N.F., 1961-61 Assistant Ranger Madison RD Beaverhead N.F., 1962-66 District Ranger Custer N.F., 1966-70 District Ranger Gallatin N.F., 1970-72 Range Staff Officer R-1 Headquarters, 1972-80 Staff Officer Bitterroot N.F., 1980-83 Staff Officer R-8 Headquarters, 1983-87 Chief's Office D.C., 1987-91 Sawtooth N.F.

Ed retired in November 1991 and moved to Corvallis, Montana. (2021)

Charles J. "Chas" Bull (Missoula '57)

Charles J. Bull, 80, was born in Worcester, England on June 09, 1938. He died in Olympia, WA on May 13, 2019.

Chas jumped at Missoula 1957-58 and 1960-61.

Michael J. "Mike" Byrne (Cave Junction '57)

Mike was born August 19, 1937, in Longview, Washington, grew up in Shelton, Washington, and graduated from St. Martins H.S. in Olympia in 1955. He earned his bachelor's from St. Martins College in 1959 and returned in 1960 to earn his teaching certificate. Mike jumped at Cave Junction 1957-59. He taught math and science at North Thurston School District in Olympia 1961-68 and coached football and wrestling. In 1969 Mike moved back to Shelton, obtained a contractor's license, and built residential homes, small commercial buildings and did remodeling work. He owned and operated a lumber yard in addition to his construction company.

Mike was elected to the Shelton City Council where he serviced 1971-79. In 1984 he was hired by Mason County as Director of General Services and retired in 2002 Mike was appointed as Commissioner of Finance (2007-08) and elected as Finance Commissioner 2008-11. He is still living in Shelton (2022) and. "have enjoyed cruising Puget Sound and the San Juan Island in our restored 35-ft wooden cruiser."

Robert Allan Carlman (NCSB '57)

Bob, 24, died June 23, 1959, in the crash of a Twin Beech dropping cargo on the Eight Mile Fire out of Winthrop. He was the Winthrop District's timber sales officer at the time and was riding in the copilots seat. Bob was born January 29, 1934, in Cook County, Illinois. He jumped the 1957-58 seasons at NCSB.

John E. Carr (Fairbanks '63)

John died March 16, 2016, at his home in Fremont N.H. After graduating from high school in 1962 John rookied at Fairbanks in 1963 and jumped that season. John graduated from the New York Ranger School in 1963 and the University of Utah in 1965.

He joined the Peace Corps in 1965 and spent several years in Africa before settling in New Hampshire in 1972 to work as an engineer.

James L. "Jim" Cherry (Missoula '57)

Jim was born in Waterloo, Iowa, on December 22, 1938. He grew up in Waterloo and graduated from East Waterloo High School in 1957.

In the summer of 1956 he drove to Headquarters, Idaho to work for Clearwater Timber Protective Association. He received his initial fire training there and manned two lookout towers (Brown's Creek and Shanghai). In 1957, following his high school graduation, he was accepted into the Missoula Smokejumpers, making seven practice jumps and seven fire jumps that season.

Jim attended Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa) and majored in Forest Management. Forestry summer camp prevented returning to jumping in 1958. He returned to jump in 1959 with two practice jumps and five fire jumps. He also took part in the experimental jumping from helicopters as they would pass low over ridgetops. That experiment was short lived. He graduated from ISU in 1961 with a B.S. in Forest Management.

In 1961 Jim went on to Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, to obtain a Master of Divinity degree in 1965. During his year of seminary internship, he developed a canoe camping ministry that took youth to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in N.E. Minnesota. Also, during his seminary years he was commissioned in the U.S. Army Chaplain program until 1970.

Jim moved to Minneapolis in 1965 to work with Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC), an inner-city ministry. He worked with youth from correctional facilities and with youth who needed adult mentors. In 1972 he shifted gears to become director of PCYC's Wilderness Canoe Base, a high-adventure camping ministry located adjacent to N.E. Minnesota's BWCAW. He expanded the ministry to year-around programming.

In 1983 Jim accepted a call to serve a congregation in Iowa and, after several years, began to specialize serving a series of congregations as an

interim pastor specialist. During this time, he also served another camp in central Iowa for a period of 6 years.

In a half-way move toward retirement in 1997 he took on serving as chaplain at a nursing home and served in a half-time position with the American Camp Association (ASCA) as Executive for the Great Rivers Section covering Iowa, Nebraska, and western Missouri. He also did work as a consultant, helping camps work toward full accreditation by the ACA.

Jim attended the first smokejumper reunion held in Missoula in 1984 and has been an active member of the NSA board of directors, serving as board president for six years. He was instrumental in establishing the NSA's annual fund, the Good Samaritan Fund and has chaired the Scholarship Committee. Jim has been an NSA Life Member since 2002. He has also taken part in many NSA Trail Projects in Montana, Idaho, Colorado, and Minnesota over the years.

Jim and his wife, Judy are retired and living in Waverly, Iowa where they are involved with gardening, volunteering, and church activities.

Beryl Clark (Idaho City '57)

Beryl, 65, died of acute respiratory problems May 30, 2002, at Mercy Medical Center in Nampa, Idaho. He jumped at Idaho City in 1957-58 and 1960 and at McCall in 1959. Beryl graduated from Boise High School in 1954, Boise Junior College in 1956, and Idaho State University in 1961. His major studies were business and accounting.

His 37-year career as a budget analyst took him to Utah, Idaho, Nevada, California, Puerto Rico, and finally to Washington, D.C. before he retired in 1995.

He had many varying and challenging experiences during his USFS career, but the times he reminisced about the most were the summers he spent as a smokejumper during which he made 37 jumps.

Michael Travis "Mike" Daly (Idaho City '57)

Mike was born February 18, 1939, in Twin Falls, Idaho, where he grew up and graduated from high school in 1957. He attended the University of Idaho and Boise State University before graduating from Colorado State University in 1969 with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and the University of Washington School of Public Health in 1975 with a master's of Public Health in Epidemiology. Mike also served in the Idaho Air National Guard. He jumped at Idaho City 1957 and at McCall 1958-62.

Work Career:

Homedale, ID, Owyhee Veterinary Clinic Large Animal Vet 1969
Boise, ID, Bench Animal Hospital Small Animal Veterinarian 1970
Boise State Department of Health Epidemiologist 1970-71
Seattle Ballard Greenwood Hospital Assistant Veterinarian Small Animals
Spokane County Health Department Epidemiologist 1971-1972
Portland OR USDA Meat Inspection
Boise Alta Lipids Agricultural Pharmaceutical Manufacturer
Salem OR State Department of Agriculture Retired 2002

Family: Wife Virginia Rae Daly Married 57 years
Sons: Patrick (Boise) Andrew (Salem) Ryan (California)

Currently (2022) living in Boise Idaho.

Jeffery R. "Jeff" Davis (Missoula '57)

Jeff was born April 4, 1937, in Duluth, Minnesota, where he grew up and graduated from high school in 1955. He went to the Univ. Minnesota Duluth for a year before moving to Thompson Falls, Montana, where he worked the 1956 season on a lookout. Jeff rookied at Missoula where he jumped 1957-66 and 1978. He was on the Silver City Crew for eight seasons. Jeff had to leave jumping in 1966 as he reached the age limit (at that time) of 40. He hired on at the Missoula Equipment Development Center (MEDC).

Jeff was able to keep jumping at MEDC until 1978 when he suffered a major back injury on a jump in Little Stoney Creek, Montana. He retired in 1983 and moved to Silver City. Jeff made a total of 180 USFS jumps, mostly fires as only two practice jumps were the norm at that time.

"The jumping years were by far my best years, and I wish I could go back." Jeff is an NSA Life Member and has written numerous articles for *Smokejumper* magazine.

Alan E. Dieffenbach (Grangeville '59)

Alan died February 5, 2019, in Brattleboro, Vermont. He was born on August 29, 1937, in Englewood, NJ, and graduated from Tenaflly High School in Tenaflly, NJ, in 1955. He went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree (with honors in History) from Wesleyan University in 1959 and a Master of Arts in Teaching (History) from Oberlin College in 1961.

Alan had a varied career which took him for extended stays on overseas assignments in Nepal and the Yemen Arab Republic. In 1964, he accepted an assignment as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nepal. After he returned to the U.S., he joined the staff of the dean of men's office at Oberlin

College. After two and a half years at Oberlin, he returned to Nepal as part of New ERA, a joint Nepali/American research and training organization.

Returning to the U.S., he worked with a human services planning agency and became particularly involved with the Southeast Asian refugee communities. Alan then took a year off to work in the Yemen Arab Republic, as executive officer with a USAID funded water project.

A few years after returning to Providence Alan and his wife relocated to Brattleboro where they purchased the Upper Crust Bakery, a business they operated until retirement.

Fred W. Ebel (Missoula '57)

Fred was born on January 17, 1936, and raised on a dairy farm near Prior Lake, Minnesota. He graduated from Concordia Academy High School in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1954. Fred attended Concordia College one year (1954-1955) and transferred to Montana State University in Missoula where he graduated in forest management in 1959. He jumped the 1957 season at Missoula.

Fred joined the Navy in September 1959, received commission after attending OCS in Newport, RI, and served as a line officer on three ships with a specialty in communications. He retired as a Captain in 1990 with a mix of active and reserve duty and received the Navy Commendation Medal in 1988.

Fred joined the Bureau of Land Management in 1963 as a forester. He worked for the Boise Cascade Corporation in 1966 as a logging supervisor and chief forester. He joined WTD Industries in 1987 in Spokane, Washington, before forming Ebel & Associates, a consulting company, in 1990 specializing in management, arbitration and acquisitions.

Fred retired in 2006 and lives in Post Falls, Idaho, and remains active managing timberland owned in Eastern Oregon. He married Nancy Brandt in 1960, and they have two daughters and four grandchildren. He is active in the Society of American Foresters, and was elected President of the SAF in 2000.

Herbert John Fischer (Missoula '57)

Herb died April 4, 2021, at his home in Gamaliel, Arkansas. He was born October 2, 1937, in Shreveport, Louisiana. Herb jumped at Missoula 1957-60.

From **Roland Pera** (MSO-56): "I regret to inform all of you that Herb passed away yesterday Easter morning. He has been fighting health issues for some time. If you didn't know Herb, he attended the University of Mississippi and spent lots of years as a pilot with Pan-Am Airways, and then United Airlines. After he was forced to retire, he flew for Warren

Buffet's private jet company, Net Jets, which I think he dearly enjoyed. I remember that he told everyone on his first flight with them, his passenger was Julia Roberts.

"He was a lot of fun to be around. The Missoula girls loved the boys with their southern accents. Needless to say, he had no trouble getting dates. He was a lifelong percussionist. Wherever he lived, he played the drums with some kind of a group with gusto. Herb lived in Dallas most of his working life."

Merlyn G. "Mike" Flom (Missoula'57)

Mike, 78, died July 27, 2016, at his home in Sartell MN. He received his university education at Concordia College and the University of North Dakota. Mike worked as a research chemist for several companies until his retirement in 1998. He was active in scouts and was a Boy Scout leader for many years. Mike jumped for five seasons at Missoula 1957-61.

William R. Fogarty (Missoula'57)

Bill died on April 1, 2008, in Leavenworth, Kansas. He was born in Akron, Ohio, on September 11, 1938. He graduated from Mogadore High School, received his bachelors and master's degrees from Kent State University, and earned his Fifth Year Specialist Degree from the University of Idaho in Moscow. He spent most of his career in education, first as a teacher and then as a primary and secondary school principal. He spent summers in the West during his high school years, traveling from Ohio to work for the Washington State Department of Forestry. He would live and work all over the West for the next 50 years, in Montana, Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico, Alaska and Washington. He instilled his spirit of adventure in his children, who both served in the Army.

Bill treasured his memories of the years he spent smokejumping. He jumped with the first crew in Alaska. He also spent seasons in Silver City and Redding. He became involved in the smokejumping community again after he retired from education, editing for Smokejumper Magazine for several years.

James Buckey "Jim" Foresman (McCall'57)

Jim died November 20, 2013, in Pittsburg, Kansas. He was born April 8, 1935, in Neosho, MO, and attended Pittsburg schools and graduated from Pittsburg High School. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after high school

and served in Japan and Korea. Jim graduated from Kansas State with a bachelor's and a master's from the University of Tulsa.

After college Jim spent over 23 years as a petroleum geologist engaged in international exploration. While at Phillips Petroleum he served as Staff Director of International Ventures and participated in the Glomar Challenger Deep Sea Drilling Program.

Later he returned and served on the staff of Pittsburg State University until his retirement in 2003. Jim jumped the 1957 season at McCall.

Owen L. "Lee" Gossett (Redding '57)

Lee was born January 18, 1939, in Simla, Colorado, and grew up in Central Point, Oregon, where he graduated from Crater HS in 1958. He attended Shasta Junior College and Southern Oregon University. Lee was in the Army, E-4, mechanic.

Work Career: Smokejumper Redding 1957-58, Fairbanks 1960-61, 63 and Cave Junction 1962. Kicker for Air America, pilot for Air America, pilot for Continental Air Service, Laos, 1964-72. Crop duster, ski plane pilot, tourist airline pilot, New Zealand. Bush pilot, Alaska, smokejumper pilot, lead plane pilot, air tanker pilot, pilot for the Intelligence Community. Owned cattle and hay ranch owned rental property.

Retired 2004 and currently living in Central Point, Oregon. Still flying for pleasure to the Idaho wilderness in the summer months. Author of *Smokejumper to Global Pilot, a True Odyssey*. Member of the Oregon Aviation Hall of Honor, 2011.

Dennis Lee Gother (Missoula '57)

"I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on July 30, 1937, and graduated from Custer HS in Milwaukee in 1955. I graduated from Valparaiso University in 1959. In the summer of 1956, I worked for the forest service out of St. Maries, Idaho and met Gary Lawley. In 1957-58, we both jumped jumpers out of Missoula.

"In early fall of 1958, as I was about to enter graduate school, I was called home because of problems with my father's small, independent insurance agency. The president of the biggest company my father represented informed me that my father was deeply in debt, and unless I got into the business, he would be forced into bankruptcy. I thought I could settle things in a few years, and then I found out that in addition to the insurance company debt, my father, who had alcohol and drug problems,

also owed nearly a quarter million dollars in federal and state back taxes. So, at age twenty-two, I suddenly had a family of five to provide for. It took me thirty years to clear all the debts.

“In 1988, I finally sold the insurance business and became the manager of a wildlife art gallery. While I was working at the gallery, my wife, Nancy Mayer, was beginning her graduate studies in American Literature. After she graduated with a late-life Ph.D., she got a teaching job at Northwest Missouri State University, and we moved to Maryville Missouri, where we stayed for thirteen years. After Nancy retired, we built a home in the lake country of northern Wisconsin, where we continue to live our lucky lives.

“I do not remember most of the fires I was on, but I do remember the feeling of being in the door or the plane, prepared to jump, with roar of the motor and the smell of gasoline, being slapped on the back, and out I went. As soon as I felt the tug of the chute opening, everything was silent, everything was serene. I had left the world behind. I was in that state, it seemed, longer than the few minutes before I had to start looking for a place to land. This is what I miss the most.”

LeRoy E. Gray (North Cascades '57)

LeRoy died September 6, 2008, at his home in Colville, Washington. He graduated from Winthrop High School in 1957 and started jumping at NCSB that summer and continued the next two seasons. In 1960 he jumped out of Anchorage and then went into the army that fall. He came back in 1962 and jumped his final season at Anchorage. LeRoy was an avid horse lover. After retiring from the Bureau of Reclamation at Grand Coulee Dam 2000, he spent much of his time training horses and building horse tack in his leather shop.

James L. Hagemeier (Missoula '57)

Jim died April 23, 2021, in Missoula, Montana. He was born November 26, 1937, in Burlington, Iowa. Jim graduated from Iowa State with a degree in landscape architecture and was hired by the Forest Service. He lived and worked in Colorado, learned to ski and used his architecture skills to develop a ski area. Jim survived an avalanche at Breckenridge that was later written up in “Reader’s Digest.”

He was promoted in the Forest Service and returned to Missoula in 1986 with a position of regional director of planning. Jim retired in 1994 after a

35-year career and enjoyed hunting, skiing and biking in Montana and Arizona. He jumped at Missoula during the 1957-58 seasons.

Norland Krougner Hagen (Missoula '57)

Norland died June 30, 2015, at his home in Missoula, Montana. He was born August 14, in Perham, Minnesota. He jumped at Missoula during the 1957 season.

Glenn F. Hale (McCall'57)

Glenn, 71, died August 24, 2010, in Payson, Ariz., after a long battle with chronic leukemia. He was born, along with his twin sister, Gwenn, in Twin Falls, Idaho, on Jan. 27, 1939, and graduated from Payette High School in Payette, Idaho, in 1957.

Glenn spent seven seasons as a smokejumper, based in McCall and Silver City. He served in the U.S. Army Airborne as a parachute instructor from 1963 through 1965. He held a Master Parachute Rigger certification, and for many years was a licensed pilot.

Glenn married Terry Lynelle Dinwiddie and for the first two years of their marriage, they lived on an air base in Savannakhet, Laos, where he worked for Continental Air Services, contracted with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Upon their return to the U.S., he earned his bachelor's degree in business and real estate from the University of Arizona. Through Hale Construction, he designed and built nearly 500 custom homes throughout Tucson. He coached many youth basketball and baseball teams and used his construction skills and contacts to improve sports facilities in Payson and Tucson. Glenn was a Life Member of the NSA.

Donald C. Hansen (Grangeville '57)

Don died July 10, 2014, in Tulsa, OK. He retired from the USAF in 1982 as a Major with almost 22 years of service, mostly as a KC-135 refueling navigator and later an RC-135 reconnaissance navigator. Don jumped at Grangeville in 1957-58 and Fairbanks in 1959.

Robert Alvin Harrison (Cave Junction '57)

Robert died August 23, 2004, in Riverside, CA. He was born June 13, 1939, in San Francisco. Robert was a maintenance mechanic for Sweetheart Papercup Co. for 36 years. He served in the USAF 1957-61 and was a Sergeant 1st Class. He jumped at Cave Junction during the 1957 season before going into the Air Force.

Thomas W. "Tom" Hodges (Grangeville '54)

Tom was born October 2, 1932, in Binghamton, N.Y., where he grew up and graduated from high school in 1952.

"I attended the New York State Ranger School (now State University Of New York (SUNY) College of Environmental Science and Forestry Ranger School) and successfully completed the course of study (not a degree program at that time). I then transferred to the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF). I spent the summer of 1954 as a Smokejumper. In 1956, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. While at the Ranger School, three of my classmates ultimately served with the Smoke Jumpers. They are Art Flick (MSO 53), John Richardson (IDC-55), and Lee Bender (GAC-57).

"In 1956, I was drafted into the Army and served for two years with a NIKE Antiaircraft Missile Battery on Long Island, NY where I carried out the duties of Supply Sergeant. I was honorably discharged in 1958.

"I worked in Binghamton, NY, a short time with the Broome County Highway Department Engineering Crew as surveyor. I then spent 2 years with the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation serving as a forester. In 1960, I was hired by IBM as a Product Development Engineer. I continued employment with IBM for the next 30 years and was manager of a Major Product Procurement Department until I retired in 1990.

"I currently reside in Vestal, NY in the same home where my wife Sylvia and I raised three sons and one daughter.

"In this year of 2021 n at the age of 88, I continue to keep active, especially with a rural property where I carry out forestry improvements. On October 10, 2020, I climbed one of the high peaks in the Adirondacks (northern part of NY) with my son Jim and daughter Judy. We hiked 9.6 miles and climbed 2200 feet and I'm happy to say that I made it, however not without some pulling and pushing on the part of Judy and Jim. Who said we are too old!

Harold J. Hoem (Missoula '57)

Harold was born July 10, 1937, in Butte, Montana, where he grew up and graduated from Butte HS in 1955. He furthered his education at the Univ. of Montana, Univ. of Minnesota, Univ. of Innsbruck, and received a bachelor's from the Univ. of Washington in 1960.

Military Service: Special Agent of Office of Naval Intelligence, Seattle, WA, Special Agent in Charge of Yokohama, Japan, Office 1964-1967, Chief Counter-Intelligence Officer, Saigon, 1967-1968.

He traveled extensively throughout Nepal, India, Pakistan, Scotland, Africa, taught at Athens College, 1968-1969, and returned to USA in 1971. Owned and operated a commercial fishing boat 1972-95, fishing for albacore off Pacific Coast, and halibut, in Southeast Alaska and the Bering Sea. Lived in Methow Valley, Washington State, and retired to Missoula in 1995.

Personal comments: Published a climate change quarterly for several years and am still active on this issue. Worked with fire scientists on home-ignition zone awareness. Worked on several trail projects after retirement. Harold jumped at Missoula 1957-59.

James Mulford “Jim” Hutchinson (Missoula '57)

Jim was born January 21, 1937, in Ft. Defiance, Arizona, and went to grade school and high school in Arlington, Virginia, where he graduated from Washington/Lee H.S. in 1955. He graduated from the University of Montana in 1960 with a degree in Wildlife Biology. Jim started working with the USFS in 1956 as a lookout and jumped at Missoula 1957-58. He was in the Army Reserves from 1961-67.

He worked at various racetracks in California exercising racehorses 1964-65. Then 1965-69 in the Los Angeles Zoo as a Senior Animal Keeper, and as a Senior Wilderness Ranger on the Teton NF from 1969-72. Jim was self-employed 1974-2000 when he retired. He volunteered on the NSA Trail Crew Program 2001-04 and was a volunteer campground host on the Bitterroot NF. Jim then spent nine seasons as a lookout on the Nez Perce NF 2006-15. He currently (2022) lives in Missoula, Montana.

Gene L. “Gino” Jessup (North Cascades '57)

“I was born in Wenatchee, Washington, on October 25, 1937, where I grew up and graduated from Wenatchee HS in 1955. I attended Wenatchee Junior College in 1955, 56 and 1958, attended University of

Montana in 1959 and graduated from U of Montana many years later in 1994.

“Due to family exemption, I missed being drafted in 1962 and worked in the fruit industry for many years and retired from my Alcohol and Drug Counseling Agency in 2013.

“I live in Malaga, Washington, with my wife, LaNita. When not fishing the small lake which is 60 feet from our back door, we will be bass fishing in Washington and Idaho. I write books and have my fourth book now in the publishing process.

“I self-published a book for my smokejumping friends of the 1956-60 era and have partnered with Bill Moody on a few literary projects. My brother and I were asked by Bill to be speakers at a couple of our NCSB reunions. It was a fantastic and wonderful honor. As with most of the Smokejumper Brotherhood, my days as a smokejumper defines me as the man I am today. Life is good, all is well, and it is as it should be.” Gino jumped at NCSB 1957-60

Carl Dean Johnson (North Cascades '57)

Carl, 67, died September 15, 2006, in Denver, Colorado, just about six weeks after the passing of his brother, William "Kay" Johnson (NCSB-54). He was born May 5, 1939, in Winthrop, Wash.

Carl graduated from Washington State University and jumped ten seasons at North Cascades and Fairbanks. He served as area fire control officer in Fairbanks until 1966, when he took the position as area manager for Western Alaska. After a move to Idaho, he returned to Fairbanks in 1973 where he became district manager in 1978.

He was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1970 and moved his family to Boise, Idaho

Robert Charles Kersh (Pioneer Redding Loft Foreman)

Bob, 91, died February 25, 2014, in the home he built himself in Redding California. A fifth generation Californian with roots in the Gold Country, he was in the CCC in the late 1930s in the Mt. Lassen-Redding area; then in WWII served in the USMC at the Battles of Midway and Saipan, and trained recruits at Camp Lejeune in advanced infantry training for the impending invasion of Japan (called off with surrender).

In the early 1950s working the paracargo depot and smokejumper spike base in downtown Redding, Bob was instrumental in the formation of the

Redding Smokejumpers in 1957; then the design and building of the Redding Airport Smokejumper Base in the early 1960's - much of it himself.

Meticulous with attention to detail, Bob trained generations of Redding Smokejumpers in all aspects from the training units, jumping, woodsmanship including timber falling, and the parachute loft. He was immensely proud of his smokejumpers, imbuing "Poags" (Redding Rookies) and experienced jumpers with his unique "character building" as well as can-do attitude of doing the best job possible, even with the limited resources typical of the smokejumper mission.

The Detailer and "Retread" Programs of the 1960s and 1970s spread Bob's positive influence throughout the USFS California Region 5 lasting to this day.

Lowell D. King (Missoula '57)

Lowell, 75, died at home in Anchorage, June 3, 2013. He jumped at Missoula for two seasons before moving to the Fairbanks base where he jumped three seasons. He then took the fire dispatcher position in Fairbanks and later retired from the BLM at the end of his career. Lowell was an NSA Life Member.

James Ramon "Jim" Kloepper (Redding '57)

Jim died November 21, 2021, in Washington, Utah. He was born December 20, 1936, in Kuna, Idaho. He graduated from the University of Idaho.

From his brother: "Jim grew up on the farm learning how to take care of Dad and Mom's herd of pure-bred milking shorthorns, pigs, chickens, and the family dog. Mom often told me that unless I ate all my oatmeal like Jim did, Jim would be bigger than me and that is exactly what happened. Jim went to high school at Kuna, Idaho. Jim was a "tall man on campus" because he got good grades; had lots of close and loyal friends; lettered in baseball and football; tumbling and jumping from the rafters of the school gym onto a trampoline for the half-time entertainment at the basketball games. Jim played center on the Kuna Kave-man football team and called most of the plays. He served in the Army for two years.

"Jim graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in accounting. He worked for the Flying Tiger Airlines and was a crew member on a ship that sailed for four or more months through the South Seas. Jim worked as a Certified public Accountant for Pete Marwick Mitchell in HA, Controller Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose, Controller Dominican Hospital Santa Cruz, and Carmel Area Wastewater District.

“A turning point in Jim’s life was when he met and married Nancy Tennie. Jim had just been in a car accident near his home in the bay area just before he was to be married. He received serious injuries to his jaw and head. He did not under any circumstances want to postpone his wedding date. He signed himself out of the hospital where he was the controller and flew to Wisconsin to present himself with a wired shut mouth and yellow/black bruises on his head. He said, ‘I do through clenched teeth. Frankly, he was a sorry looking groom.”

Jim jumped at Redding 1957-60 and at Redmond 1964. He was part of the first smokejumper crew when the Redding Base started in 1957.

Fredrick W. “Fritz” Koepp (Redding ’57)

Fritz was born November 10, 1938, in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, where he grew up on a dairy farm ten miles from Rice Lake. He graduated from Rice Lake H.S. in 1956 and furthered his education with a bachelor’s in Forest Management from the University of Minnesota in 1960. Fritz was in the USAF Reserve Pararescue for six years.

His work career: Forester--Forestry and Water Rights Agent, Fire Ecologist, Real Properties Agent; numerous locations: Big Bar, CA, Pasadena CA, Los Angeles, CA, Shaver Lake, CA, Rosemead, CA, Anchorage, AK, and Fullerton. CA.

Fritz jumped at Redding 1957-58 and was one of the original crew that started the base in 1957.

Vernon Lattin (Redding ’57)

Vern was born November 7, 1938, in Winslow, Arizona. He moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico at age nine and graduated from Highland H.S. in 1956. Vern continued his education with a bachelor’s and a master’s from the University of New Mexico, followed by a Ph.D. in English from the University of Colorado in 1970.

His professional career included academic professorships at the Univ. of Tennessee, Northern Illinois Univ., the University of Wisconsin, Arizona State University and Brooklyn College (City Univ. of New York). He was also a University administrator: Assoc. V.P. for Academic Affairs Univ. of Wisconsin System (1982-88), V.P. and Provost Arizona State Univ. (1988-92) and President Brooklyn College (1992-2000).

“I became a smokejumper by chance and circumstances in 1957. While talking with a friend, the friend suggested applying to the Forest Service for

a jumper position. At the time, I had never even flown in an airplane, not dreamt of jumping out. In fact, I actually jumped out of an airplane six times before having the pleasure of actually landing in one. During my short career, I had the good fortune of being entangled with another jumper's chute, falling a good distance out of a tree, and having the opportunity of getting all the crew lost while walking out from a fire.

"I am currently retired, living the easy life in the village of Corrales, N.M., with my wife, Patricia Hopkins Lattin. We have four children and more than a dozen grandchildren. My memories of friends and jumping continue as a warm thought to the day, sixty-three years beyond my last jump."

Vern jumped at Redding 1957-59.

Gary G. Lawley (Missoula '57)

Gary was born September 19, 1937, in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, and moved to California in the late 1930s before returning to Oklahoma. He went to East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, on a full football scholarship where he played in every game for four years and was an All-Conference receiver. He jumped at Missoula 1957-58 paying his way through college. Gary got his master's at East Central and his Ph.D. in Aquatic Ecology at North Texas University and did post-doctoral work at U.C. Berkeley.

Gary's work career is extensive and varied. He was Head Basketball Coach at Amarillo H.S. for several years and was once selected the "Basketball Coach of the Year" in Texas. He was Program Manager for several nuclear power plants (NY), managed environmental studies Susitna Hydro Project (AK), adjunct professor Univ. Alaska, extensive work in villages in Alaska, Lead Responder major spills (AK), Hazmat expert (overseas), worked 3-Mile Island, Mt. St. Helens eruption, desalination plant protection Saudi Arabia, among others.

Gary is now retired and spends winters in Oklahoma and summers in Alaska. He has worked on the NSA Trail Crews for 11 years and is a Life Member of the NSA.

Gordon Kay Livingston (Idaho City '57)

Gordon was born October 12, 1938, in Provo, Utah. He earned a bachelor's in Forestry from Utah State in 1960, a master's in Forest Genetics from Oregon State in 1964, and a Ph.D. in Forest Genetics from

the University of Washington in 1971. Gordon jumped at Idaho City 1957-61.

His academic career was devoted to the fields of human genetics and occupational and environmental health at the University of Utah and the University of Cincinnati.

Richard F. Lukes (Missoula '57)

Dick, 64, died of Alzheimer's disease February 22, 2001, at his home in Groveton, Texas. He was born December 19, 1936, in Lisbon, North Dakota and was a forestry and ROTC graduate of the University of Montana. Dick jumped for two seasons, spent two years on active duty in the Army, and worked four years in timber management positions on the Flathead N.F.

Dick worked on several other forest in Region 1 until 1984 when he transferred to Texas and a position as District Ranger. Dick retired from the USFS in 1994. He was active in the Boy Scouts and the First Assembly of God Church for many years.

John William "Mike" Mackinnon (Missoula '57)

John died October 23, 2017, following complications from heart surgery. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1958 with a degree in Industrial Management. While in college he joined ROTC and served in the active and Army reserves for 11 years attaining the rank of Captain.

John jumped at Missoula 1957-62 before moving to Denver where he worked with Samsonite Co. and the U.S. Small Business Administration. In 1967 he was transferred to Helena, Montana, where he worked until his retirement. He was active in the NSA Trails Program, Helena School District and the Helena Visitor Center.

A tribute to "Mike" was written by Don Courtney (MSO-56) and published in the January 2018 issue of Smokejumper.

Michael N. "Mike" Martin (Grangeville '57)

Mike was born in Tullahoma, Tennessee, on September 27, 1937. He joined the Tennessee National Guard in 1956 before his smokejumper rookie year in 1957. After the season, Mike enlisted in the Army in October of 1957 and retired in June of 1986. He served tours in Germany, Korea and two combat tours in Vietnam. During his time in Vietnam, he was an advisor to two Vietnamese Ranger Battalions and commander of a

provincial reconnaissance unit. Mike rose to the rank of Command Sergeant Major (CSM) and had assignments with the 82nd and 101st Airborne and Army Ranger Department. He received numerous medals and awards including three Bronze Stars, The Legion of Merit and five awards of the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

In 1994 he was inducted into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame for his contributions to the Army for more than 30 years. Mike authored "Angels in Red Hats," a book about the Vietnamese Airborne Forces. He and his wife, Hildegard, live in Tullahoma, Tennessee.

John R. McDaniel (Cave Junction '57)

John was born September 12, 1936, in Washington, Pennsylvania. He grew up in Grafton, W. Virginia where he went to high school before graduating from Schenley H.S. in Pittsburgh, PA. He earned his bachelor's in Forestry from the University of West Virginia in 1960 and later received a master's in International Studies from the Naval War College in 1983. John was in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard 1951-57 before starting an extensive career with the US Navy 1962-84 as a Naval Aviator. John is an NSA Life Member and was NSA Membership Chairman for 15 years. His extensive and interesting bio can be found in the January 2021 issue of *Smokejumper* magazine. In referring to his two seasons at Cave Junction John says, "I very much miss the Gobi and the work there. Best job I ever had."

W. Thomas McGrath (Missoula '57)

Tom died March 9, 2008. He was a retired professor of forestry at Stephen F. Austin State University. Tom earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Montana and went on to earn his Ph.D. in plant pathology from the University of Wisconsin.

He lived abroad in Italy, New Zealand and Australia in his youth, and served as an interim professor for six months in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1991.

Tom jumped out of Missoula for twelve different seasons in a career that spanned a time period from 1957 through 1985. He was a NSA member and active in the Trail Maintenance Program.

Jack A. McKay (North Cascades '57)

Jack was born April 23, 1938, in Vancouver, BC, and grew up in Seattle, Washington, where he graduated from Lincoln H.S. in 1957. He furthered his education with a bachelor's in Central Washington University in 1961, a master's from Central Washington in 1965 and an Ed.D. from Washington State University in 1974. Jack jumped at NCSB 1957-60 and 1962. He started his career in education as a teacher/coach at Port Angeles H.S. 1961-66, Principal at Ritzville and Pasco H.S. 1967-72, and Superintendent of Schools of the Sequim and Selah School Districts. Jack was Professor/Dept. Chair University Pacific (CA) 1986-90, the University of Nebraska (Omaha) 1990-94, and Associate Dean College of Education Central Washington University 1994-2023. He was Executive Director, The Horace Mann League of the USA 1994-2023.

Gary R. "Sam" McNeill (Missoula '57)

Sam died August 9, 2016, at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center. He grew up in Nampa, Idaho, where he graduated from high school. Sam graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in wildlife management. He worked his summers as a smokejumper at Missoula where he jumped the 1957 and '58 seasons. Gary spent his career working for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

After retirement he continued to work on projects for Fish and Game and land management, especially in the Craig Mountain Area.

Herman "Hank" Mohland (Missoula '57)

Hank, 39, died July 28, 1971, near Columbia Falls, Montana, in an auto accident on U.S. Hwy #2. He was born December 18, 1931, in Missoula, Montana, to German immigrant parents. He graduated from Missoula County H.S. in 1950 where he was a standout track and field athlete. Hank was in the USAF during Korean War.

He went to the University of Montana on a track scholarship and graduated in 1971 with degrees in Political Science and Philosophy. Hank Married Elaine Page in 1958 and they had two children, Cy and Jamie. He jumped at Missoula 1957-58.

William D. "Bill" Moody (North Cascades '57)

"I was born June 3, 1939, in Bellingham, Washington, but soon moved to Anacortes, Washington, during the WWII years. From there I moved to

Everett, Washington, from 1945 to 1951, then to Seattle, Washington, through my junior and senior high school years. A week and a half after graduating from Lincoln High School (Seattle) in 1957, I started rookie jump training at NCSB.

“I attended the University of Washington, Seattle, during the 1957-58 school year. In 1958 a couple of us NCSB jumpers decided to attend Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington. From 1958-61, I attended Central, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in Geography. I immediately got a teaching and football/track coaching position at Pioneer Jr. High in Wenatchee, Washington (1961-1964). In 1964-65 I returned to Central Washington University, graduating in 1965 with master’s in Social Science. Upon completing my master’s, I returned to Pioneer Jr. High for a year before moving up to Wenatchee HS from 1966-1969 as a Contemporary World Problems teacher and junior varsity football and varsity track coach (quarter mile-distance runners). Summers were reserved for smokejumping.”

Other Employment: “My junior High years were spent working in my parent’s dry cleaners, bagging groceries in the local Food Giant and spending summers working on my uncle’s ranch near Bozeman, Montana. During the summer of 1956, between my junior and senior year of high school, my foster brother and I ventured to Crescent, Oregon, where we worked in a ‘gypo’ sawmill pulling green chain. Luckily, there were two openings on the Crescent Ranger District, Deschutes NF fire/tree pruning crew. By ‘misrepresenting’ my age I was hired on the fire crew as a Laborer.”

Smokejumping: “As mentioned, I rookied at NCSB in 1957 and became a Supervisory Smokejumper in 1961, Smokejumper Training Foreman in 1969, and Smokejumper Base Manager in 1972. During my career I made 615 jumps from 25 different jump aircraft—208 fire jumps, 31 pararescue/search jumps and 20 Ram Air training jumps. Two Trimotor jumps were made for the 60 Year documentary, *Firefighters From the Sky*. For several years I served as a member/chairman of the SASEB (Smokejumper Aircraft Screening and Evaluation Board).”

Aviation Quals/Positions: “While a jumper I was a qualified ATGS (Air Tactical Group Supervisor), Air Operations Branch Director and Type 3 IC. From 1991 to 2016 I was an AD ATGS on the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF, serving on several Type 1 and 2 IMTs.

“From 2004-2018 one of my more interesting jobs was with the VLAT/747 Supertanker program where I served as air tactical operations instructor,

747 fire operations specialist and international marketing from 2004-2018. I served as Chief of Operations 2018-2019. The program operated out of Colorado Springs, Colorado and McClellan, California. Supertanker assignments included fire operations in California, Oregon, Northern Mexico, Israel, Chile, and Bolivia. Since retiring in 2018 I work as a consultant for the 747 Supertanker program.”

Fire-Aviation Instructor/Consultant:” In the early 1990s I formed my own company, North Cascades Fire Service. I specialized in ICS fire and aviation courses plus an Air Tactical Operations course for the Colville and Yakama BIA/Confederated Tribes, Minnesota DNR/Superior NF, and Washington DNR.

“In 1998 I was hired as a Fire Operations Instructor for the Mongolian Integrated Fire Management Program—managed by the German Agency For Technical Assistance (GTZ). Assignments included six six-week tours, 1998-2000, instructing basic firefighter/ICS, crew boss, misc. short courses.”

Retirement: “Retirement has been a multi-career event from teaching in 1969 to going to work full time at NCSB, from Smokejumper Base Manager in December 1989, from ATGS assignments in 2016, and from full-time 747 Supertanker program Chief of Operations 2018. I currently live in the Methow Valley, Twisp, Washington”

Professional Highlights: “A couple of professional highlights include: 30-day US-USSR Scientific/Technical Exchange to Soviet Union, two jumps from an An-2 with Russian jumpers in East Siberia. A Smokejumper program presentation at the Smithsonian Air Space Museum with Francis Lufkin in 1983. Six details to Mongolia to train Mongolian firefighters 1989-2000. Recipient of 2020 Walt Duran Aerial Firefighter Safety Award. Life Member NSA.”

Forrest Reed “Buster” Moore (Redding ’57)

Buster, 84, died April 25, 2023. He was born February 11, 1929. Buster was one of the original members of the crew that started the smokejumper base in Redding, California, in 1957. He jumped 1957-61, and 1965-69. Buster was living in Castle Rock, Colorado, at the time of his death.

John Muraro (Missoula’57)

John, 78, died Sept. 20, 2013, in Victoria, British Columbia. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Fire Science from Montana State University in 1960, and immediately began his

professional career with the Canadian Forest Service at the newly opened Federal Research Institute in Victoria.

Prior to attending college, John was a timber cruiser in the Nelson Forest office in British Columbia, whose district forester urged him to continue his education. John jumped at Missoula during the 1957-60 seasons.

John's collaboration and support from others resulted in new technologies, products and tools. One of his first projects in the Canadian Forest Service led to John's effective ignition techniques for both logging slash and standing timber fires. He and colleagues also developed airborne ignition machines including the helitorch and a dispenser of injected spherical incendiaries.

These machines and techniques are in use globally today. John and colleagues also produced automated fire weather stations to collect and transmit data from remote sites to central offices. John was a source of ideas for the fledgling Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System, under development by CFS in the 1960s. His modular concepts for a "Universal Burning Index" were adopted by the CFS Fire Danger Group as the Canadian Forest Fire Behavior Prediction System, a system still in use across Canada today.

John started Climax Land Management, a venture working with the ranchers clearing range land, and harvesting timber for portable mills. John was one of the first to utilize pine trees killed by beetles for dimensional lumber. John wrapped up his career by operating Baseline Prescriptions, providing all aspects of silviculture.

Roary Murchison (Redding '57)

Dr. Roary A. Murchison Jr., an emergency room physician who helped found three occupational medical clinics, died at his Woodland Hills, California, home August 27, 1990. He was 52.

A native of Alabama, Roary graduated from Ohio State University College of Medicine in the early 1960s and later served as a doctor on a U.S. Army Special Forces A-Team during the Vietnam War. He worked as an emergency room physician in Chino, CA, before coming to Woodland Hills in 1980.

Roary was one of the founders of the California Occupational Medical Clinics, which had offices in Canoga Park, Saugus, and Rancho Cucamonga. In the early 1980s, he was on the staff at Tarzana Regional Medical Center and Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital.

Roary jumped at Redding 1957 through 1962.

David K. "Dave" Nelson (Missoula '57)

Dave, 86, died March 12, 2022, in Grass Valley, California. He was born in Aurelia, Iowa, in 1935. Dave jumped at Missoula 1957-58, and at Redding where he was Base Manager 1959, 65-67. He received his

bachelor's in Forestry from Iowa State University. Dave and his family ultimately settled in Nevada City, California, and he led one of the nation's Type 1 Fire Teams in while working on the Tahoe N.F. When he retired, he continued for 20 years shaping emergency response policy for FEMA.

For any of you that worked with Dave, you knew that he had a tremendous insight in fire management, was a no-known sense person, and expected the best of his associates. Back in the days of immediate initial attack, Dave would load the DC-3 at Redding, fly the forest after a lightning storm, jump fires as he found them (2-manners), and prevent them from becoming project fires. He was one of a kind and I don't think will ever be duplicated. (Ed.)

John Edwin Parkes (McCall '57)

John was born August 9, 1935, on a houseboat, on the St. Johns River, in Jacksonville, Florida, where he grew up. At age 17, he hitchhiked alone from Jacksonville throughout the U.S. to Vancouver, Canada, and returned. At age 18, he joined the U.S. Army Airborne and served with the 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. Later he served in the 101st Airborne Division.

Then John rookied at McCall where he jumped 1957-61. He received the coveted gold wings for having made more than 50 fire jumps and is listed on the bronze plaque at McCall. He made 66 parachute jumps with the smokejumpers and 24 with the paratroopers, making 90 parachute jumps, having just turned 26. Being from Florida, the smokejumpers nicknamed him "Gator" and listed this on his fire cache bin.

John attended the University of Florida and subsequently attended and graduated from the University of Idaho (BS, Geological Engineering), the University of Iowa (MS, Hydraulics and Mechanics Engineering), and the Netherlands University at Delft (MS, Sanitary Engineering).

In his early years, he looked for gold in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. He dredged gold in streams in California, and panned gold in streams in Colorado, Idaho, and the Yukon. In these years, he also explored the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon on a rubber raft, which included running Lava Falls, a Class 7 rapids (the only one in the U.S.).

John liked to climb mountains. He climbed mountains in Mexico, the U.S., Nicaragua, and Iran. He climbed Kings Peak, the highest point in Utah, Mount Katahdin, highest point in Maine, and Mount Damavand, highest point Iran. He climbed a smoking volcano (Mt Merapi) in Indonesia and another in Nicaragua.

In his professional career, he worked as a Civil Engineer / Water Resources Engineer in the western and eastern United States, and nine foreign countries (Nicaragua, Indonesia, Iran, Yemen, Philippines, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, and Sudan).

Under the Shah's National Water Program, as the hydrogeologist-engineer, he developed the safe yield for over 150 groundwater basins in Iran. As team leader, developed over 125 municipal water supply systems in the Philippines. In Maryland, as the Engineer of Record, did the Civil Engineering design and construction management for the Rocky Gap Golf Course, Hotel - Conference Center and Casino

In his later years, he has tried his hand at writing. Under the writer's name JOHN EDWIN PARKES, he has completed four novels, 1) *The Gold and the Mountain*, 2) *Three Maidens and Stanley Park*, 3) *Annie of Houseboat Chinquapin*, and 4) *The Old Hobo and Eight Other Short Stories*. In addition, he has in final draft a two-act stage play, *The Graduate*, and a novel, *Gallagher*.

Norman E. "Norm" Pawlowski (Cave Junction '57)

Norm was born August 22, 1938, in Lynnwood, California, and grew up in Southern Oregon, "in the wilds of Applegate-Rush-Jacksonville area." He graduated from Jacksonville HS in 1957 and continued his education at Southern Oregon College where he earned a bachelor's in Math-Science in 1961. Norm then earned his Ph.D. in Physical-Organic Chemistry from Oregon State University in 1965. He jumped at Cave Junction 1957-61 and 1964 before starting his career.

Work Career:

Instructor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1965-66

Assistant Professor, Illinois State University, Bloomington, 1966-68

Associate Professor, Oregon State University, Corvallis, 1968-85

Hewlett-Packard, chemist and Regulatory Manager, Corvallis, OR,

Gene Tool, Philomath, Oregon, making anti-sense genes, 2000-02

Retirement: Christmas Tree Farmer, Basketball Referee, Monmouth, Oregon

Personal Comments: "The Highlight of my life was smokejumping, more fun than anything."

Kenneth Lanier Purcell (Missoula '57)

Ken died November 17, 2017, in Carroll, Georgia. He was born July 20, 1937, in Franklin, Georgia. Ken graduated from the University of Georgia in 1962 with a degree in Forestry and worked with the state of Georgia for 34 years as a Forester. Ken jumped the 1957 at Missoula.

Clarence "Buddy" Rausch (Idaho City '57)

Buddy, 75, died May 23, 2012, in Billings, Montana. He earned a degree from Idaho State University, where he won the 1959 NCAA national championship in boxing at 147 pounds. Buddy served in the Army Reserve, reaching 2nd lieutenant, and served as the boxing coach at Fort Benning, Georgia. He jumped at Idaho City in 1957-58 and from McCall in 1959. Buddy had a 34-year career in the claims department at Farmers Insurance, retiring as claims supervisor in 1995. He was also a prominent basketball and football official, working those sports for 38 years and earning a spot in the Montana Officials Association Hall of Fame.

Robert Eldon Reid (Missoula '57)

Bob was born September 12, 1937, in Knoxville, Tennessee, and moved often while growing up. "In so many places I don't remember them all. I attended 12 schools before graduating from Bremen HS, Bremen, Georgia, in 1955." He then earned a bachelor's in Zoology from the University of Georgia in 1960, graduated from the Air Command and Staff College in 1973, and earned a master's in Public Administration from Troy, Alabama, in 1977.

Bob was a career USAF officer March 1961-87. Work career: Air Force Navigator, Combat Control Officer, Transportation Squadron Commander, NATO Logistician.

Retirement: Retired from USAF in 1987, after 26 years, 3 months, 10 days. Currently live in Niceville, Florida.

He jumped at Missoula 1957, 59, 60 and at Redding in 1995.

Personal comments:

Grew up on a hard scrabble farm in rural NW Georgia. My dad, a bomber pilot during the war, was born there and came back to raise our family. He'd been a forester for Tennessee Valley Authority before the war. Tried to return to TVA Forestry but didn't care for the post-war bureaucracy and opted to restore the family farm that had fallen into disrepair while he was gone. He died of sudden heart attack when I was eighteen and a freshman at UGA.

Oldest of three boys, I was left without strong parental guidance and pretty much followed my instincts. Fellow Georgia Forestry freshman, Ken

Purcell (MSO-57) and I applied for employment "out west" with USFS the following summer and hitchhiked to Idaho in June 1956. I went to Riggins, Ken to Grangeville, and we had no contact until time to return to college. But we'd both had a similar odd experience: We had hauled fire-packs uphill for miles to small lightning strikes, only to find a couple guys had already lined the fires and were lounging in the shade. We learned these were "smokejumpers," and this sure looked like the job for us!

We both applied and were accepted the next year. Hitchhiked back to Missoula as rookies in 1957. Ken and I made our first fire jump together, a six-manner in the Selway. Our jump plan—the Ford Trimotor with Bob Johnson at the controls. Can't find my jump log, but think I got 3 or 4 fire jumps and one rescue jump that first year. Summer of '58 I spent on fire tower (Spot Mountain) in Idaho's Magruder District. Reported more than two dozen lightning fires and watched smokejumpers from a distance.

Summer of '59 I was back jumping at Missoula. It had been almost exactly ten years since the disaster at Mann Gulch, and I happened to be at Moose Creek when the Ford crashed killing two more jumpers. Roland Pera (MSO-56) and I had hiked out 28 miles from a two-manner and were waiting for the bird to pick us up. Before he died from horrific injuries, my close friend John Rolf (MSO-57) gave me detailed verbal instructions for disposition of his modest possessions—an experience that still haunts me today.

Graduated college in March 1960 and being available early was put on the New Mexico crew. Quite an active season in the Gila—got two fire jumps in one day. Also put out two fires on one jump another day, including a tiny one about a mile away where we saw the lightning strike from the plane. Our fire report noted that 2nd fire burned an area of four-square feet! After fire season cooled in Region 1, I was on boost crew at Redding for several more fires, for a total of 20 fire jumps for the year. (need to check that total)

Got draft notice while at Redding, traded a stack of per diem checks for a shiny new VW bug, terminated, and headed back to Georgia to join Air Force. Had a total of 42 Forest Service jumps, and really wanted that 50-jump pin!

Was commissioned 2nd lieutenant via OTS and sent to navigator school. Had I done the college ROTC thing, I'd have gone to pilot training, but that was not an option in 1961. Intended to serve the minimum four years, get out, and return to Missoula but fate intervened. War drums were sounding in Southeast Asia, and our airlift wing at Travis AFB, CA was scheduled to add an airdrop capability to support Army war readiness.

This meant they needed a Combat Control Team to handle drop zone operations.

Because of my USFS parachuting experience, I was sent to Army jump school for military jump training and put in charge of forming a CCT at Travis. I was still on flying status, navigating the new (--pre-GPS) C-141 transoceanic, but also now jumping and operating drop zones. Later in my career I had additional dual flight/CCT assignments in Hawaii and South Carolina.

My obligatory combat flying assignment came in 1970 when I got orders to Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, as a Forward Air Controller, directing interdiction missions at night along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos. My job was to lean out the window, locate moving trucks with handheld starlight scope and tell the pilot what I saw as we dodged clips of groundfire tracers (mostly 23 and 37mm) being fired at us. Gunners fired at our sound as we flew totally dark, but a thousand rounds a night was not unusual. Many times, we could hear the "pop, pop, pop" of tiny sonic boomlets as we jinked out of their way. Several of my squadron mates did not make it back.

One mission is particularly memorable, as it was the only time I ever flew with another smokejumper, and we almost bailed out due to engine failure. Gene Hamner (MSO-67) has written it up in his fast-paced, and only slightly exaggerated, article "Single Engine O-2," published in Smokejumper, Oct 2004. It was definitely exciting!

While in USAF I logged more than 5000 flying hours and made more than 250 military jumps. Received 11 Air Medals, 3 DFCs, the Legion of Merit, and earned Italian jump wings. Retired from Air Force in 1987 as O-6, but still hankered for that 50-jump pin.

In 1995, after a 35-year hiatus, I went through rookie training again. This time at Redding. Made another 12 Forest Service jumps and got my pin. Has any other smokejumper made fire jumps from both the Ford Trimotor and the Twin Otter??

My focus today is restoring original longleaf pine on ~1250 acres in Florida Panhandle. Fire is an essential component of this ecosystem, so I've had to learn to properly cultivate forest fire rather than try to stomp it out. In recent years I've also participated in several NSA trail maintenance projects. Helping establish the Jim Phillips' trail accessing the remote Mann Gulch site where 13 jumpers died in '49 was the most personally gratifying. I somehow felt my being there was in honor of John Rolf and Gary Williams (MSO 59) who died at Moose Creek.

Ronald H. Roberts (North Cascades '57)

Ron was born February 8, 1934, in Okanogan, Washington. "We lived in Omak at the time and then moved to Seattle and graduated from Lincoln H.S. in 1953." He was drafted into the Army and went through Airborne training. Ron spent two years in the 82nd Airborne and made the All-Army Rifle Team in 1955. "I made the all-army team and shot in national marches in the Master Class and got a second and third place." He attended Wenatchee Valley College 1957-58 on the G.I. Bill where he played on the football and basketball teams. Ron jumped at NCSB 1957-58. Ron was the manager for a large floor-covering wholesaler in Spokane for 32 years before retiring at age 58.

"We bought a 97-acre ranch north of Deer Park, Washington, in 1967. We lived there for 49 years before moving to Deer Park gold course." He and his wife, Vicki, have been married for 64 years (2022).

William Joseph "Bill" Robertson (Missoula '57)

Bill, 86, died July 6, 2022, at his home in Fairbanks, Alaska. He was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, January 12, 1936. Bill began his undergraduate studies at the University of South Dakota (USD) and transferred to Carroll College in Helena, Montana, where he graduated in 1960. Bill started his firefighting as a lookout before his rookie year at Missoula in 1957. He jumped at Missoula that season, Grangeville 1959-61, and Fairbanks 1962, 65-69. When Bill started his work in Fairbanks, he enrolled in the University of Alaska as a graduate student in parasite physiology but started fulltime work with the BLM in 1965. He was one of the four "engineer jumpers" who parachuted out of helicopters to set survey marks in remote areas of Alaska.

By 1967, Bill was Chief of Fire Support, and in 1972, he became BLM Chief of Public Affairs until his retirement in 1994. He made 192 jumps without injury during his smokejumper career. Three days after he retired, Bill took the position of President of the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce where he worked until 1998.

Robert J. "Bob" Rofelty (Missoula '57)

Bob died December 19, 1974, in San Bernardino, California. He was born August 17, 1933, in Los Angeles, California, where he graduated from high school. He spent three years in the U.S. Army Airborne. Bob married

Jeanne Louise Perry March 1, 1958, at Lake Tahoe, California. He jumped at Missoula during the 1957 season.

In December 1974 he was wanted for the fatal shooting of his daughter and his estranged wife. Later, when stopped by a California Highway Patrol officer for erratic driving, he fired two shots at the officer before shooting his female companion and turning the gun on himself. Both declared dead at the scene.

Robert J. “Bob” Rofelty (Grangeville '57)

Bob died December 19, 1974. He jumped at Grangeville in 1957. Information on Bob is skimpy, but we know he was Army Airborne for three years before becoming a smokejumper and he was married in 1958.

John Anthony Rolf (Missoula '57)

John, 26, died August 4, 1959, in the crash of a Ford Trimotor at the Moose Creek airstrip. He died at the Grangeville hospital of burns suffered in the fire that followed the crash. He was born July 21, 1933, in Peekskill, N.Y. and graduated from Hendrick Hudson H.S. Montrose, N.Y. in 1950. He was in the Navy 1951-54. John is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in New York.

John jumped at Grangeville 1957 and 1959 and at Missoula in 1958.

Kenneth Arthur Ken” Root (Redding '57)

Ken was on the first Redding Smokejumper crew. They trained at Cave Junction before moving to the Redding Base. He jumped the 1957-58 season before taking a canoe guide's position in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota. Ken earned degrees up to and including his Ph.D. and was a college professor before retiring. He lives (2022) in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Daniel J. “Tex” Schroedel (Missoula'57)

Dan, 82, died April 5, 2018, from cancer. He grew up in Pampa, Texas, and, at age 11, went on vacation to Green Mountain Falls, Colorado. It was the first time Dan had seen mountains and he knew then that mountains would be an important part of his life. He jumped out of Missoula in 1957 and 1958 while attending the University of Montana.

Following graduation in forestry in 1959, Dan went to work for the

St. Regis Paper Company in Libby, Montana, as a Forester. He then went back to the USFS working on the Kootenai NF before taking a position on the Tahoe NF. During his career, Dan also worked on the Six Rivers and Stanislaus forests.

After retirement in 1973, Dan went to work as a sawyer until his knees gave out on him in 1995. Dan and his wife, Susan, retired in Plains, Montana, here they lived on 86 acres looking down on the Clark Fork River. Dan left behind the following message: Lived free, died well!

Wayne G. Schrunk (Cave Junction '57)

Wayne, 82, died in an auto accident December 22, 2017, in Farmers Branch, Texas. He was born October 10, 1935, in Scio, Oregon. Wayne graduated from Oregon State University and jumped at Cave Junction during the 1957 season.

Wayne served in Vietnam where he was a Captain in the U.S. Army. After six years in the Army, Wayne started a career as an airline pilot. He flew for 17 years with Braniff International and 13 years with U.S. Air.

Wayne is buried the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. He was a Life Member of the National Smokejumper Association.

Warren Edward "Swabie" Schwab (North Cascades '57)

Warren was born August 20, 1935, in Roslyn, Washington, where he was raised and graduated from Cle Elum H.S. in 1955. He then attended Wenatchee Valley College, Central Washington University and graduated from the University of Washington in 1962 with a degree in Business Administration. Swabie then served in the Navy 1953-56 on the submarine USS Trigger. He jumped at NCSB 1957 and 1959.

Swabie went to work in the Aerospace industry 1962-66 on the Boeing minute man missile program, Rocket Research Company 1967-75, where he was on the Mars Viking Lander Program credited with the first Mars landing. He was self-employed 1975-85 establishing a furniture store before returning to Rocket Research until 1998 when he retired. Swabie is currently (2022) living in Roslyn, Washington.

Randolph "Toby" Scott (McCall '57)

Toby was born October 17, 1937, in San Antonio, Texas and grew up in Nix just 11 miles west of Lampasas where he graduated from high school. He jumped at McCall 1957-58, and Idaho City 1959-60. Toby was in the Army National Guard 1960-66.

“I worked for Intermountain Aviation Inc. from February 1962 to September 1964 as aerial cargo specialist, where we did research and development work on cargo and personnel parachutes and delivery systems. We developed the reefed parachute system which was dropped at a high altitude and opened at 500 feet to avoid ground fire. We also developed the Fulton Skyhook system on the B-17 which we used successfully on Operation Coldfeet in 1962. Forty-seven years later at CIA Headquarters in Langley, Virginia, we received the Agency Seal Medal for this operation.

“While at working at Intermountain, I helped train Tibetans at Camp Hale, Colorado, and Vietnamese at Long Thanh, South Vietnam. I made 17 jumps in Vietnam, four of them night jumps. While at Marana we dropped a 3,000 lb. bundle from a C-46 (100-ft. chute). I think that’s the only time that has ever been done. We did it twice.

“I hooked logs on a skidding jammer in Montana for a couple years, worked as a kicker for Continental Air Services in Laos on C-46s and the Lockheed 382. Also worked five and a half years for Alaska Barge and Transport in South Vietnam. I was self-employed in Texas from 1972-95 before buying a ranch in Montana in 1988. I built my cabin in 1995 and never looked back. Enjoyed every damn bit of it.”

George K. “Ken” Sisler (North Cascades ’57)

Ken, 29, died February 7, 1967, while on a SOG mission in Laos. He was born September 19, 1937, in Dexter, Missouri.

Ken was a member of the 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces in Vietnam. He was the platoon leader/advisor to a special United States/Vietnam exploitation force. While on patrol deep within enemy dominated territory, his platoon was attacked from three sides by a company sized enemy force. Lieutenant Sisler quickly rallied his men, deployed from a better defensive position, called for air strikes, and moved among his men to encourage and direct their efforts. Learning that two men were wounded and unable to pull back the perimeter, he charged from the position through intense enemy fire to assist them. He reached the men and began carrying one of them back to the perimeter, when he was taken under more intensive automatic weapons fire by the enemy. Laying down his wounded comrade, he killed three onrushing enemy soldiers by firing his rifle and silenced the enemy machine gun with a grenade. As he returned the wounded man to the perimeter, the left flank of the position came under extremely heavy attack by the superior enemy force and several additional men of his platoon were quickly wounded. Realizing the need for instant action, to prevent his position from being overrun, he picked up some grenades and charged single-handedly into the enemy onslaught, firing his weapon, and throwing grenades. This singularly heroic action broke up the vicious assault and forced the enemy to begin withdrawing. Despite the continuing enemy fire,

he was moving about the battlefield directing air strikes upon the fleeing force when he fell mortally wounded. The light medium speed Naval ship USNS Sisler is named after him.

Ken jumped at NCSB during the 1957 season.

Craig Eugene Smith (Missoula '57)

Craig, 62, died February 8, 2000, in Klamath Falls, Oregon, after suffering for several years from Parkinson's disease and dementia. He was born September 22, 1937, in Plano, Illinois. Craig was a 1960 graduate of the University of Montana's Forestry School. He later earned an MBA at the University of Oregon.

Craig worked for the BLM in California and Alaska for six years, then for several timber companies in Hong Kong, Korea, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

Ronald R. Stoops (Missoula '57)

Ron was born November 19, 1936, in Los Angeles, California, where he grew up and graduated from Covina H.S. in 1954. He attended Mt. San Antonio Jr. College before graduating from the University of Montana in 1959 with a degree in Forestry. Ron did post-graduate studies at George Washington University. He entered the Navy flight training program in 1960 and was designated a Naval Aviator in October 1961. His first tour of duty was on the USS Enterprise flying the A-4 Skyhawk. Ron then went to China Lake, California, where he participated in the initial development of the air-to-ground tactics for the Phantom aircraft. In April 1969 he reported to NAS Miramar, California, and completed two deployments on the USS Constellation and the USS Enterprise.

In 1975 Capt. Stoops was as Executive Officer and, subsequently, Commanding Officer with the "Red Rippers" on the USS Forrestal. In May 1984 Ron reported to Commander Carrier Group Four as Operations Officer and served as Chief of Staff to the Commander Naval Air Force, Atlantic Fleet. He flew over 200 combat missions in Vietnam, logged over 4,800 flight hours and had more than 900 carrier landings. Among his military awards are the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, and eleven Air Medals.

Ron jumped at Missoula 1957-58 and is currently (2022) living in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Charles W. "Chuck" Sundstrom (Missoula '57)

Chuck was born December 18, 1936, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, grew up there, and graduated from Olney H.S. in 1954. He then moved to

Missoula to attend the University of Montana where he obtained degrees in Wildlife Technology (1959) and Forestry (1963). Chuck spent six years in the National Guard (1960-65).

He jumped at Missoula 1957-58 and West Yellowstone in 1959 where he assisted during the Yellowstone Earthquake that year.

Chuck had an extensive 40-year career with the USFS (and others) which included Research Biologist Wyoming Fish and Game, Bridger NF, Biologist Toiyabe NF, John Day NF, Beaverhead NF, and RO Juneau, Alaska. He spent a six-stint on the Deer Lodge NF before finishing his career as the R-1 Fire Cache Manager in Missoula.

Chuck retired in 1994 and moved to Petty Creek, Montana, where he lives now.

Ronald W. Swensson (Missoula '57)

Ron, 78, died March 14, 2016. He was born in 1937 in Moline, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Montana with bachelor's and master's degrees in Education. Ron jumped at Missoula during the 1957 season. He started his teaching career in Richland, Washington, in 1959 and moved to Great Falls, Montana, in 1969 where he taught until his retirement in 2000.

Ron was a talented artist and also loved fly fishing and taught fly tying with the "Hooked on Fishing" program for 13 years.

Dean John Weeden (Missoula '57)

Dean, 82, died July 17, 2013 in Eureka, Montana. He was born November 7, 1930, in Lynn, MA. He got his first job with the Forest Service at age 17 in Idaho before entering the Air Force in 1951 where he served as a surgery technician stationed in Korea.

After the war he jumped at Missoula in 1957, while earning his bachelor's degree in forestry from the university. His first job with the Forest Service was in Alaska where he moved from junior forester to District Ranger in four years.

Dean's 33-year career with the USFS included his work as ranger on the Tongass N.F. and Kootenai N.F. and as recreation and lands staff officer on the Tongass.

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James A. "Jimmie" Wescott (North Cascades '57)

Jimmie of Okanogan, Washington, died August 28, 1999, in the home of friends. He worked for the USFS for many years and was a graduate of Central Washington University. Jim worked as a counselor for juvenile offenders. He later served as head of the Okanogan Juvenile Probation Office in the late 70s and early 80s. Jim jumped at NCSB 1957-59.

Kenneth E. Wilder (McCall '57)

Ken was born October 27, 1935, and grew up in Middleton, Idaho, where he graduated from high school in 1953. He then earned his bachelor's in Business Management from the University of Idaho in 1963. Ken served in the Navy 1953-56 as an aviation electrician before jumping at McCall 1957-62. He worked for two corporations as chief accountant before opening his own business as a tax accountant in 1973. Ken is not retired and still in business at age 86.

He currently (2022) lives in Camden, Alabama where he has been since 1965. Ken was mayor for 12 years and on the city council for another 12 years. He jumped on the Silver City Crew in 1960—"We had a great time being with a group of people that enjoyed beer and having fun.

"Yes, the danger was there but we didn't know it. It is sad that so many have gone on. Just a few left in the rookie class of 1957. I think that we all paid our dues. Most jumpers turned out to be great Americans with a sense of duty and love of country."

Donald D. Wilson (McCall '57)

Don was born May 14, 1936, in Pocatello, Idaho, lived in Portland, Oregon, and moved to Middleton, Idaho, in 1945 where he graduated from high school in 1954. He went to what is now Boise State University for two years, transferred to the University of Idaho where he received his bachelor's in Forest Management in 1958. Don was in the USAF Reserve for six years.

He spent his summers while in college working for the USFS as a Lookout, trail crew, packer and fire dispatcher. Don jumped at McCall during the 1957-58 seasons before being called to active duty in the USAF. In 1960 he worked as a Forester on the Hornet R.D., Council, Idaho, and was then transferred to the Weiser R.D. as the Assn't District Ranger. In 1962 he was assigned to the Regional Office in San Francisco, California. From there to 1983, he worked in R-10 (Alaska), the national office in D.C., R-4 Ogden, Utah and finished his career as Director of Personnel for R-2 in Colorado.

Don retired in 1983, sold Real Estate and was a Manager at Sears finally retiring in 1992. "Since then, I have been a home builder, airplane builder and general airport bum. After 50 years of flying, I sold my last airplane and now fish, travel in an R.V. and take care of family. After all of this, my summers as a smokejumper are still the highlight of my Forest Service years."

Don lives in Grants Pass, Oregon. (2021)