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## Smokejumper Obituary: Whitesitt, J. Eldon (McCall 1944)

National Smokejumper Association

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## Smokejumper Obituary

### Whitesitt, J. Eldon (McCall 1944)

Eldon, 97, died May 24, 2019, in Newport, Oregon. He was born January 15, 1922, in Stevensville, Montana and was a member of the Methodist Church. He attended both grade school and high school in Stevensville and then attended the University of Montana in Missoula and Montana State in Bozeman.

As a young man, he served as a minister in four small Methodist churches in Western Montana and Bozeman.

Eldon was drafted from Stevensville into Civilian Public Service in 1943 and trained as a smokejumper in 1944. His occupation at the time he entered CPS was listed as "Math Professor." He was stationed at McCall and had three fire jumps in 1944 and five in 1945.

After his discharge from CPS, he continued his education earning a Master's and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. Eldon was a professor of Mathematics at Montana State University in Bozeman during the duration of his career. He authored college level texts: Boolean Algebra and Modern Algebra for Elementary Teachers.

*(end of excerpt)*