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Smokejumper Obituary: Piepenburg, Roy Lynn (Missoula 1945)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Piepenburg, Roy Lynn (Missoula 1945)

Roy was born February 12, 1926, in Reedsville, Wisconsin. When he was in high school the family, led by his mother, joined the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). This started Roy on a lifetime journey as a peace activist. His passion for peace got him into many conflicts during the 1940s and years after.

He graduated from Madison West H.S. (WI) in 1944 just prior to entering CPS. Roy entered Civilian Public Service in 1944 and was assigned to Camp 94 at Trenton, North Dakota. It was at that time he established friends with the "landless Indians" who lived near Trenton. This was the start of his lifelong involvement with Indian Affairs in Canada.

Roy jumped at Missoula during the 1945 season, had seven fire jumps, was transferred to Camp 128 at La Pine, OR, and discharged in 1946. He returned to Madison and graduated from the University of Wisconsin School of Education in 1952. His first teaching assignment was at Lac Court Oreilles Reservation in Northern WI. Later he taught at the Bureau of Indian Affairs schools in Wyoming, Arizona and Utah.

In 1961 he emigrated to Canada and took teaching position in the Northwest Territories and, after three years, was promoted to school Superintendent, Indian Affairs, St Paul, Alberta.

Roy was a lifetime peace advocate and after retirement continued with his involvement in Project Ploughshares and the Canadian Peace Alliance.

"I planned to dedicate my life to social reform along avenues that would aid the poor and oppressed. That is how I got involved in Indian education and aboriginal rights."

(end of excerpt)