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## Smokejumper Obituary: Sargent, Laurel Robert (McCall 1944)

National Smokejumper Association

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## Smokejumper Obituary

### **Sargent, Laurel Robert (McCall 1944)**

Laurel, 78, of Ransom, Kansas, died in Great Bend, Kansas, August 11, 2000. He was born April 8, 1922, near Brownell, Kansas. The Depression provide hard times. Laurel went to a one-room school in Ash Grove, KS, where he graduated in 1935. "School was an abject boredom for me." Even at that, he finished at the top of his class. "My idea of a perfect day would be to stay at home and work the crosscut saw." He graduated from high school in 1939 and enrolled in Fort Hays State College.

Laurel registered for the draft on June 30, 1942, at age 20. As a member of one of the Peace Churches he was eligible for Civilian Public Service and served as a CPS smokejumper at McCall during the fire seasons of 1944-45. He made two fire jumps in 1944 and seven during the 1945 season. He married in 1955. Laurel's life was in and around the small farming and ranching community of Ransom, Kansas. He is buried in the Ransom Cemetery.

*(end of excerpt)*