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Smokejumper Obituary: Zimmerman, Loren L. (Missoula 1943)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Zimmerman, Loren L. (Missoula 1943)

Loren died May 12, 2002, in Gridley, IL. He was born January 12, 1917, near Flanagan, IL. He worked at the family farm until he was 21 and then went to an electrician school in Chicago. "The neighbors were getting electricity for the first time, so I was in business." He was a member of the Mennonite Church and was drafted into the Civilian Public Service in 1941.

Loren was among the first CPS men to become smokejumpers and he jumped all three years (43-45) of the program. His brother, Merlo, was also a smokejumper. Loren, along with Phil Stanley and Dave Flaccus were the first CPS men to make a fire jump. After his discharge, Loren returned to Gridley and resumed his business as an electrical contractor.

(end of excerpt)