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## Smokejumper Obituary: Hearst, Roger O. (Missoula 1950)

National Smokejumper Association

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## Smokejumper Obituary

### Hearst, Roger O. (Missoula 1950)

Roger died October 8, 2019. He was born in Plains, Montana, and in 1949, was a Plains High School graduate along with fellow smokejumper Hal Samsel.

Roger was a rookie smokejumper in 1950 with 53 other jumpers, including his brother, Bob. After jumping for the 1950 fire season, Roger served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1951 to 1954. Upon discharge from the Coast Guard, Roger entered Montana State University (now University of Montana) majoring in horticulture, graduating in 1958. During the 1954 and 1955 fire seasons, he returned to smokejumping.

Upon his graduation from MSU, he began a career in fire control for the USFS. Roger started on the Plains RD, Lolo NF and in 1964 worked on the Forest Service Dickinson Job Corps Center in South Dakota. In 1969 he became the District Fire Control Officer in Superior, Montana, serving in that position until his retirement from the Forest Service in 1987.

*(end of excerpt)*