

January 2016

Smokejumper Obituary: Prochnau, James W. (Missoula 1949)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Prochnau, James W. (Missoula 1949)

Jim, 87, a leader in the Northwest timber industry, died January 9, 2016, in Albany, Oregon, after a three-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born August 13, 1928, in Bakersfield, CA. He rookied at Missoula in 1949 and was good friends with Leonard Piper. Both are pictured on the cover of Norman McLean's book *Young Men and Fire*. He jumped at Missoula 1949-50.

Jim graduated from Everett High School in 1946. In 1952 he earned his degree from University of Washington in forest management.

Jim co-founded Jackson & Prochnau, a forestry consulting company in 1954. He performed consulting work throughout the U.S., Canada, Honduras, Russia and China. His expertise led him to be a highly-sought expert witness in court cases involving timber.

(end of excerpt)