

March 2010

Smokejumper Obituary: Hebel, H. Lee (Missoula 1944)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Hebel, H. Lee (Missoula 1944)

Lee died March 17, 2010, in Pennsylvania. He was born on the family farm October 15, 1920, near Liverpool, PA. Lee attended a one-room school for the first eight grades and graduated from Liverpool H.S. The family attended the local Lutheran Church.

Lee was drafted into Civilian Public Service in 1942 and was accepted into the smokejumper program in 1944. He jumped for two seasons. "I trained under Wag Dodge and Bill Wood." Lee had four fire jumps in 1944 and seven in '45.

Lee also had CPS work in hospitals prior to his time as a smokejumper and the cattle boat shipments to Europe after the war.

Lee graduated from Susquehanna University in 1948 and Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1951. He served Lutheran congregations for 38 years during his career. In 1974 Lee was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity by Susquehanna University for his commitment to rural church ministry.

Regarding his life: "If we were called upon to make the choices again, we would be Christians, a Christian Pastoral family, and Christian pacifists."

(end of excerpt)