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Smokejumper Obituary: Wilde, Paul F. (McCall 1946)

National Smokejumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Wilde, Paul F. (McCall 1946)

Paul was born May 3, 1923, in East Lansing, Mich., and died at the age of 76 on April 17, 2000, of kidney failure. At an early age his family moved to Idaho where his father was a Forest Service ranger at New Meadows. After attending school in New Meadows and McCall, he enlisted in the Army and served as an infantryman with the 3rd Army in France, Germany, and Czechoslovakia during World War II.

Upon his discharge, he returned to McCall and married Lois Close in 1946. His first job upon his return, and the one of which he was most proud of, was as a smokejumper. Paul jumped through 1947. After working for a lumber company for a number of years, he returned to the Forest Service in McCall and worked as the road maintenance supervisor until he retired in 1983.

(end of excerpt)