Eastern Washington University

EWU Digital Commons

January 2002

Smokejumper Obituary: Schlabach, Abraham J. (Missoula 1945)

National Smokejumper Association

Follow this and additional works at: https://dc.ewu.edu/smokejumper_bios

Part of the Forest Management Commons

Recommended Citation

Smokejumper Obituary

Schlabach, Abraham J. (Missoula 1945)

Abe died July 8, 1996, in Phoenix, Arizona. He was born on a farm near Yoder, Kansas, August 24, 1925. Abe was the eighth in a family of nine children. When still a baby, the family moved to an Amish Community near Plain City, Ohio.

He attended local schools, was active in the Amish Community and graduated with honors from high school. At age 16 he was given the job to lead in the construction of a new barn which was still standing in the late 1990s. In 1944 he was drafted into the Civilian Public Service, sent to a couple camps and was accepted to the CPS-103 smokejumper unit in 1945. Abe was in the second group of jumpers trained at Nine Mile that year. He has seven training, seven fire and one rescue jump during that season.

After his discharge from CPA, Abe returned to farming before heading to Arizona in 1949 where he worked as a truck mechanic. In 1962 he decided to attend Palmer Chiropractic College in Davenport, Iowa. Abe's wife was also a qualified Chiropractor and they returned to Arizona and took over a practice owed by his wife's father. Abe continued to teach Sunday School in the Amish/Mennonite tradition.

(end of excerpt)