

January 2002

Smokejumper Obituary: Hellman, William J. (Missoula 1946)

National Smokejumper Association

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



Part of the [Forest Management Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

National Smokejumper Association, "Smokejumper Obituary: Hellman, William J. (Missoula 1946)" (2002).
Smokejumper Obituaries. 1311.
https://dc.ewu.edu/smokejumper_bios/1311

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Smokejumper Digital Archive at EWU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Smokejumper Obituaries by an authorized administrator of EWU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jotto@ewu.edu.

Smokejumper Obituary

Hellman, William J. (Missoula 1946)

Bill, 24, died August 6, 1949, in a Helena hospital because of burns from the Mann Gulch Fire on August 5, 1949. He lived in Kalispell, Montana, and, at the age of 17, volunteered for the Navy where he served two years before transferring to the Marine Corps as a medical corpsman and took part in operations in the Pacific theatre. Bill completed high school upon his return from WWII and attended Montana State University for two years, one year at Northern Montana College and was three months away from his degree from Greeley State Teachers College in Colorado with the aim of becoming a science and botany teacher.

Bill was married to Geraldine Mather, and they had a son a month and a half old. Two weeks before the Mann Gulch Fire, he took part in an exhibition jump in front of the White House in Washington, D.C.

(end of excerpt)