

From the Book
An Extraordinary Teacher

Stories told to us by Prof. Herb LaGue, Shodai

a Master Martial Artist

by

Professor Bob Karnes

Herb, Sensei International Traveler

Herb's travels to Egypt

Herb traveled to Egypt with a few students. One trip Herb had a conversation with a local about metaphysics. Herb was invited to spend the night in the king's chamber of the great pyramid. Herb said that after a ceremony introducing him into their group he spent the night there. He did meditations there and the pyramid was like an amplifier of your thoughts. To remain in control of your thoughts were needed so you would not cause mental harm to yourself.

Suki and Herb at the Egyptian Shop

While visiting the Seattle Pier shops Suki walked into an Egyptian store and went unnoticed by the shop owner. She saw his expression change when Herb walked in. The shop owner instantly became interested in Herb. The shop owner and Herb exchanged a subtle hand gesture, and they acted as if they were long lost friends. Suki said it was strange to see the stories that she had heard from Herb be verified to her in person.

Bushidokan International Federation Dojos in Ecuador

Prof. LaGue was working on expanding our USA national DanZan Ryu federation, to include martial arts from around the world. Ecuador was on his list. When Herb started the Bushidokan International Federation many schools continued with our new Bushidokan Federation.

Stories from Ecuador

Prof. Herb had long hair that he kept up in a pony tail. During a class in Ecuador a martial art student from another Ecuador system challenged Prof. Herb and as Herb was demonstrating a technique the student grabbed Herb's pony tail and attempted to hurt Herb. Prof. Herb was forced to use an advanced technique and took the student forcibly down to a submission hold. Herb keeps his hair short since that incident.

The police and the passport

While Prof. Herb was walking the streets in Ecuador a police officer stopped Herb and starting asking him questions. At one point the policeman asked Herb to show his passport. Herb complied until the office wanted to take the passport from Herbs hand. Her told the officer that the Chief of police was his friend and the chief told him not to hand over his passport to anyone. The police officer insisted. Herb told the officer to call his chief as a matter of fact here is his number on my phone let us call him. As the chief answered the phone the chief told Herb to hand the phone to the officer. Problem solved.

Prof. Herb and the GOE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QLZKDwFfYU>

Special Operations Group (Ecuador)-GOE (the special police used for the most dangerous law enforcement missions) uses the Bushidokan Federation DanZan Ryu Zenyo Bujutsu as their hand to hand training that was created and taught by Prof. Herb LaGue.

Prof. Herb LaGue's DZR Zenyo Bujutsu provided the key to the GOE advanced training giving the officers more less lethal options. Many other types of martial arts and sport fighting systems had been tried. The Police arts of Prof. Herb LaGue were found to meet their needs. The key to their success was the excellent ongoing training by our Ecuador Black Belt Instructors and their dedicated students. With the support of high ranking GOE and Government officials their outstanding training program is an ongoing success.

First class with the Ecuador GOE

Prof. Herb suggested that he teach his police hand cuffing arts with the GOE instructors and recruits. An instructor told Herb Sir we do not use handcuffs. He told Herb if we have to go into the jungle to get a bad man they do not come back. No hand cuffs needed. Prof. saw that the special service Police needed less that lethal hand to hand skills to better support the law abiding community while protecting themselves. In their country to gain the public trust and respect using excessive force was counterproductive. If a person attacked the officer with a knife lethal force with an officer's handgun was seen as excessive so the police used batons or their hand to hand skills to disarm the attacker.

Many classes back and forth USA and Ecuador

Our Bushidokan Zenyo brothers, sisters, and their families from Ecuador traveled to the USA to our Bushidokan Dojo. While they were here, they went to special classes, Martial Art events and toured the US. When Herb and his students went to Ecuador they received the same hospitality. This exchanged helped in the progression of DZR Zenyo Bujutsu ranks and advanced training of the Ecuador GOE Special Operations Group.

The Demonstration of Zenyo Police Arts

After a couple of years our GOE friends and Herb's Ecuador Black Belt Instructors did a Zenyo Police Arts Demo which became their GOE Special Operations Arts. The high ranking Police and Government officials were watching the GOE do their Police Restraining techniques. At the end of the demo Herb did a common DZR art called a rear naked choke on a student. The student was choked out and the official jumped up in horror as they thought that they had witnessed a murder. Herb did the restoration technique called Se Katsu immediately awaking the student. The Officials went to horror to elation as they assumed that the student was dead, and Prof. Herb brought him back from the dead.

The Shotgun disarm

Prof. Herb was teaching at an Ecuador seminar and the guard at the door was armed with a shotgun as is the regular practice at many events and businesses. The guard asked Herb how do you defend against a shotgun? Herb quickly used a Morote Hazushi type of disarming technique. The hosting instructor yelled Herb it is loaded! Herb knew that it had been loaded but we do not normally work with loaded weapons for practice. Please do not practice disarming techniques with loaded weapons.

Travel to England

While planning a trip to England through the internet Herb found a martial art school in teaching a different martial art but they had a common esoteric mission as the Bushidokan. Herb got in contact with the Sensei and Herb was met at the airport by the Sensei and he took Herb to his home to stay during his visit. The next day the Sensei invited Herb to teach at his school. As the proper protocol Herb said do some arts I will watch. Herb found the things that he liked about their arts and gave them an additional way to provide another application to add to what they were doing at their school. The Sensei told his students Prof. Herb, and I will now do grappling or Shime rondori or free play. Herb quietly told the Sensei I do not want to embarrass you in front of your students, but I am pretty good. The Sensei said go ahead and do your best. The Sensei was given an around the world Shime demo by Herb, Sensei. (as shown in my book Martial Arts Kata and Beyond Part 1). The Sensei told Herb “I do not know what I was thinking when I invited you to my home without knowing you. I could have been killed in my sleep by a stranger who I met on the internet”. By trusting each other and with their mutual respect they demonstrated that we know we are all brothers and sisters in the martial arts mutually working for the betterment of our society.

Surprising a student Opening her school

Herb was in Europe talking to the front desk manager of the Hotel. The manager mentioned that today a Jujitsu Dojo was opening, and he said the name of the Sensei. Herb recognized the name as one of his students. Herb showed up a little after the starting time and walked up to the mat where his student was opening her first class. She was shocked and said Sensei what are you doing here? As she had not notified Herb about where she was living, she was surprised. Herb said “It is the duty of your Sensei to witness your Dojo opening” as if he knew about it before that day.

International Travel with United Nations Religious Leaders

Herb traveled in foreign cities with a group of a worldwide multi religious group recognized by the UN to walk the streets of conflict-ridden cities talking to groups and to citizens about dropping their intolerance for other religions. This became political and very complicated, but Herb was there to resolve conflict and to be their security person.

The Finish Martial Art School

We had a martial art school visit to the Bushidokan and a AJJF Federation convention. They were large ferocious and luckily for us they used the head instructors son to demonstrate their techniques on. These martial artists were employed by Russian oligarchs for security during trips throughout Europe.

Herbs trip to Finland

During one of Herbs visits the Finns invited to a night club. As they drove quickly in a caravan of black SUV's at 12 midnight they ended up at a large warehouse near a soviet submarine port with armed guards outside. This was a different side of life for Herb to be a part of.