



An Extraordinary Teacher

*Prof. Herb LaGue, Shodai
a Master Martial Artist*

*Stories recalled by
Prof. Bob Karnes*

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**With Permission of
Prof. Herb LaGue, Shodai
Sensei and Founder of the
Bushidokan Martial Arts Temple and
Founder of the
Bushidokan International Federation**

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About the Author

My First Time in a Martial Arts Dojo



I first visited Sparks Judo and Jujitsu (now the Bushidokan Martial Arts Temple) in 1970 with a high school friend. I stood outside looking at this old two story red wooden building with Japanese-style lettering on it. As we walked upstairs I saw glowing planets and stars hanging from the black light- lit ceiling in the stairway. On the mat there were three groups of people. It was after night class and two students were practicing hand escape arts, two others were throwing each other, and one person was sitting on the mat writing in a notebook. The single student that caught my attention was the person writing in the notebook. I thought, this must be a special martial art that was worth taking notes for. The school at that time was focused on hard core Judo and Jujitsu with metaphysical studies, as well as studies in older traditional healing arts. It would not be until 10 years later that I would reenter as a student.



Large Moon Scape Wall Mural on one wall of the mat area

Professor Bob Karnes May 2021 www.bobasan.net

My studies into the metaphysical, ancient, and modern mystery schools prepared me for my teachers belief in the unknown and the supernatural. I was not convinced and not willing to spend ten years in a cave to attain enlightenment, so I studied and waited to see for myself. I have a basic knowledge of psychology, eastern and western philosophy, and an appreciation for all the different cultures views of the supernatural. I lean towards a Carl Sagan view of science as a candle in the dark when investigating what is not yet known in the natural world. Or Arthur C. Clarke — 'Magic's just science that we don't understand yet.'

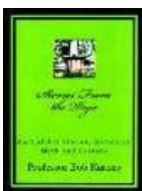
My first Sensei Ginny Kitzke prepared me for what was coming with books like the Carlos Castaneda series. I was not concerned that my second teacher, Herb, Sensei was experiencing a very different reality than I was. He seemed to be able to relate to many different types of people on whatever level that we all had in common. He was able to demonstrate his martial arts effectively although the need to use critical thinking and not to be persuaded with group think was important to him. In private Herb, Sensei welcomed your questions and concerns. He mainly taught me not to be a slave to my fears or to a limited imagination.

On a very practicable level Ginny and Herb changed my life. I am a licensed massage therapist for the last 34 years because of them. The healing arts and restorative massage that they taught me has benefited myself and many others. Prof. LaGue's conflict resolution DanZan Ryu Zenyo Bujutsu martial art system has served me well as a mental health worker by protecting myself, our patients, and fellow staff for 15 years. As a martial art teacher for over 40 years my gratitude is profound.

Although often esoteric and mystical my teacher is someone could do many other things in the physical world like being a master mechanic, a master carpet layer as well as a person who lived simply and gave people who were in need a hand or a safe place to live while maintaining a martial art school since the 1970's. to the present year 2021.

I hope to shine a positive and wonderous light with these stories that he told
(As best as I can recall) from an extraordinary teacher Prof. Herb LaGue, Shodai.





Some of these stories are from my book
Stories From The Dojo Martial Art Stories, Memories, Myth and Lessons by
Professor Bob Karnes

Combining Martial Arts Training with My Mental Health Job

In 1980 I moved back to Reno, Nevada and I started work as a Mental Health Technician (MHT) I realized that I needed training in self-defense. I had forgotten about my visit to the martial arts school ten years before, but I remembered the word Jujitsu. I needed to learn self-defense to survive my violent job, so I looked in the newspaper and found an ad for a Jujitsu class. I signed up in 1981 at the Sparks Recreation center with a martial art school called Yama Arashi Majo. I was the first student that had signed up without first watching a class. I went to my first class with Ginny Kitzke, Sensei - Ikkyu (1st Brown Belt), who was teaching DanZan Ryu Jujitsu, a hybrid, mostly Japanese martial arts system created in Hawaii in the 1930s. Three years later I transferred to the Sparks Judo and Jujitsu club with my second Sensei Herb LaGue.

Living at the Dojo

After a few years I moved into an attic room above the mat at the Dojo. The students and the people living at the Dojo made monthly donations to help keep the Dojo and the surrounding complex open. There were three or four martial art classes a week being taught by volunteer instructors. Herb and some senior students donated their time and skills to repair and improve the two story old railroad meeting hall building that was our Dojo as in the picture above. A beautiful deck ice tub, sauna, a massage area, and a hot tub made this Dojo very special.

While living at the Dojo I realized that there were no secrets here. It was like living with an extended family at your best and sometimes at our worst. Many dramas were amplified as up to twenty people lived on the ever expanding 9th street complex with a large house, a small house and a duplex added to the property.

While living in my attic room I could work out on the mat whenever I wished, go next door to the communal kitchen to socialize in the large house next door or just hang out in my room. While in the hot tub, while on Dojo bus trips, or while socializing in the kitchen to my delight the stories flowed.

Herb's Youth Stories

His life was an open book. These stories were told to many of his friends and students over many years. As we were like a commune with common areas with the house next door to the Dojo. We accidentally walked in on each other while using the rest room and the nudity in the sauna and in the hot tub area was well known in the 1980's. I will tell these stories from Herbs early days to stories in later years in that order.

Young teen and the ladies

As a young teenager Herb said that he was often approached by ladies in their twenties and older, and he had many sexual encounters with them. On one occasion a girlfriend his age took him to her home to meet her family and when Herb was introduced to her mom they were both shocked as Herb and the mom had previously been in younger man older woman relationship. Women remained an important part of his life. He often joked that he was a lesbian trapped in a man's body.

Self-employed teen

While Herb was in high school in the 1950's he was self-employed making money rebuilding manual transmissions in his back yard. He made enough money to buy a new Studebaker automobile.

Herb and his father Bert at school

Herb's high school teacher grabbed Herbs arm during a minor problem during class time. Herb told his Dad. Herb's Dad Bert was a short, hefty man. Bert went to Herbs classroom the next day and in front of the students Bert grabbed the teacher with the shirt collar pushing him against the wall off his feet telling the teacher if you ever mess with my son Herb again you will regret it. After that the teacher avoided Bert in the small town of Sparks, Nevada. Herb was walking with Bert and the teacher were walking towards them. Bert said "watch this" when the teacher saw Bert he quickly ran across to the other side of the street.

Young Herb and His Crew

During his high school years in the 1950s, Herb and his friends would pull kidnapping pranks in downtown Reno, Nevada. The friends would pull up to the curb with brakes screeching, get out, open the trunk, grab their friend after a realistic-looking fight. They would throw the 'kidnapped' person into the trunk of the car, they would then squeal the tires as they sped away. On this day, it was Herb's turn to be kidnapped by his friends. All went well until a soldier on leave came to Herb's defense. The soldier fought Herb's friends until they ran to their car and drove away. Herb thanked him and then ran off to meet up with his would-be kidnappers.

The Rifle

Herb received a 22 rifle as a present from his dad, Bert. Bert took the rifle and said just a minute as he took a pair of pliers and broke off the front site. He was told that after he could shoot from his hip and hit the target he could bring the rifle up to his shoulder. "Be the target" comes to mind. Years later herb was invited to go target shooting with one of his black belts. Herb had not shot at targets since he was a kid with that sightless rifle. Herb brought the students rifle to his hip and shot all the targets. The student said, "That is scary".

The Ruby Ring

In the 1950's as a kid Herb received a ruby ring from his dad as a present. This seemed odd. Bert said keep this safe and someday when technology improves, I will do something cool with it! A few years later Bert got the family together and took the ruby ring and popped out the stone and placed it into a contraption that he had built. Bert then demonstrated his homemade laser beam device. The successful demonstration of the ruby laser was publicly announced in 1960.

The Nuclear Fusion Class

In the 1950's the University of Nevada Reno hosted a talk to the public an introduction to nuclear fusion as a power source. Bert and Herb were in the audience and after the talk Bert went up to the chalk board where some mathematical equations were written. Bert told the Professors this is OK this is incorrect, it should be like this. The Professors said that is interesting that might work. Bert said sure it works! After that day, a group of men in suits in an unmarked car were parked outside Herbs home and the men would follow them around. Bert would go to the car and tell the men we are going to and invite them to join the family for dinner out. Bert had no formal higher education and Herb believed that his dad was an intuitive or self-taught genius.

The family holidays disappearance of Bert

On special family get togethers Bert would set up a stage in the living room and gather the family around for the traditional Bert disappearing show. He had an electrical device and when he was ready he would flip the switch. The audience would see Bert disappear from his ankles up. He would flip the switch then fully reappear. Bert said someday the technology will advance and I could entirely disappear.

A Walk in the Woods

GM C. told me this story in the kitchen at the house next to the Dojo. C. was at the LaGue family gold mine, walking with Bert in the woods. C. looked behind them and noticed that a deer had turned and started following them. Bert said to C., “He is my friend.” Then two little birds landed on Bert's eyeglasses. He said, “They are my friends too.” Bert had a bit of mystery about him.

A Walk Up the Wall

A visitor to Bert's house next door to the Dojo started messing with him. Bert punched the man five times in succession from his belly up to his face while the man was up against the wall. Herb said that the man's feet came up off the ground higher with each punch.

The Bear Mine Incident

As a young man, Herb was at his family's gold mine walking around outside when he suddenly turned and came nose-to-nose with a black bear. Shocked, they stood staring dumbfounded at each other. Herb's dad gave a sudden loud shout. The boy and the bear both jumped in the air, turned, and ran away from each other.

The Traveling Bear

A traveling show rolled into downtown Sparks sometime in the 1950s. There was a rolling cage holding a trained black bear with a mohawk hairdo, declawed, and wearing a muzzle. As a traditional way for the owner to make a little money, he would charge the residents a few bucks to wrestle the bear. Herb's dad paid the man to let his son fight the bear. Anything you did to the bear the bear would do back to you. If you punched him, he would swat you, usually a little harder, as the bear liked to win the contest.

Herb ran around the bear and tried to grab him from behind. The bear reversed the move and ended up behind Herb, grabbing him in a literal bear hug, drool dripping down the back of Herb's neck.

Herb did a Jujitsu art, reaching between his own legs and sliding one of the bear's rear legs forward, dumping the bear on his bear butt! The indignant bear used his other rear leg and placed it on Herb's butt and pushed him away violently into the side of the cage. Herb's dad could not be in the same room with his son for a week as he could not stop laughing whenever he thought about his son battling the bear.

Herb LaGue Martial Arts Bio and Stories

Professor LaGue was born in Reno, Nevada on June 12, 1941. His father, James Burton LaGue, started him off in boxing in 1950 and later taught him a Tibetan style of martial arts that Herb's father called Jujitsu. Over the years he studied Judo under Mack McIntosh, Aikido under Bill Cox, as well as Savatte and ballet. The latter art he credits for developing his excellent footwork skills. Professor LaGue is also an expert in ancient restorative healing arts.

In 1968, Herb LaGue began to study and teach Danzan Ryu Jujitsu at the Sparks Judo and Jujitsu Club. At that time the club was run by Larry Cary, Sensei. Herb was given the rank of Shodan 1st degree Black Belt in 1970 under Professor Bud Estes with the American Judo and Jujitsu Federation, and at about the same time he assumed the position of head instructor (Sensei) of the Sparks Judo and Jujitsu Club from Sensei Cary. Professor James Musselman started the Sparks club before it moved to its current position and Cary Sensei took it over. Professor Herb LaGue holds the rank of Judan and the title of Shodai. Professor LaGue founded the system known as DanZan Ryu Zenyo Bujutsu in June 2004. Professor LaGue is the head of the Bushidokan Federation and has logged many miles in support of the martial arts and conflict resolution for many years, visiting and teaching at dojos and attending peace rallies in many countries around the world. In the mid-1980s he changed the dojo's name to the Bushidokan Martial Arts Temple.

Stories from the early Sparks Judo and Jujitsu Club

Herbs first fighting lessons from his dad

Herb saw some martial arts on TV so he asked his dad to teach him how to kick someone in the head. Bert threw Herb to the ground and did a light kick to Herbs head. His dad said put on these gloves and I will teach you how to box. After getting hit repeatedly in the head by his dad Bert asked how do you like that? Herb said that he did not like getting hit in the head so Bert said good I will teach you how not to get beat up and Bert started teaching the Martial Art that the Chinese cook taught him.

Testing Black Belts

A story is told that once a year Bert would show up to black belt class and invite himself on the mat saying something like “Well son how are your students doing”? Bert would invite the black belts to attack him and then after dispatching them he would say to Herb “Good job son keep up the good work”.

311 9th street the Dojo

The Sparks Judo and Jujitsu Club is now the Bushidokan Martial Arts Temple. It is a large wooden two-story building that was moved from the Sparks railyard that is nearby. The building was originally a Railroad Workers Union Hall. Herbs family lived downstairs while the mat or workout area was upstairs.

The customer off the street

One day a man walked in the front door of the Dojo and sat at the kitchen counter and said give me a beer. The resident went to the refrigerator and handed the man a beer. When the man tried to pay for the beer the resident said what is that for? The man said isn't this a bar? He was told this is not a bar we live here. He was upset that he had walked in someone's home, but he was told to come back for a beer any time.

The Strong Man Lift

The Sparks Judo and Jujitsu Club used to share the mat with Karate students and bodybuilders. One day a weightlifter said to Herb that he did not believe that Jujitsu could overcome a stronger opponent without apparent effort. Herb is a slightly built man and weighed very little compared to the bodybuilder in front of him.

Herb told the body builder “You look strong try to lift me!” The bodybuilder tried several times, but he was unable to lift him. The Ki exercise and object lesson Herb was using is sometimes called the light-heavy art. The bodybuilder left the mat a little angry and upset. The next time he saw Herb, he said, “I know how you did it, you hypnotized me!” Herb replied, “Oh, are you hypnotized now?” The bodybuilder said, “No.” Herb said, “Lift me now.” The results were the same and once again, he could not lift Herb.

The Karate teacher promotion

In the 1970’s Herb had a Karate instructor share the mat during non-Jujitsu classes. In return Herb took Karate lessons. The training was harsh and after every class the teacher would have his students line up with their back to the mat entrance and he would kick them in the stomach pushing them off the mat. The instructor told his students if you are not seriously injured by the time you test for black belt I will make sure you are. As Herb was nearing his black belt he witnessed the instructor spar with a lower rank. The student got a good punch to the instructors head and the instructor retaliated and beat up the student. The student returned to the next class looking beat up and after the class he told the instructor I came back just to prove that I am not afraid of you, and I quit!

Herb saw this despicable behavior of this instructor and just before his karate black belt test Herb said that this was his last class. The instructor said you are about to get your black belt why would you quit? Herb said you told us if we had not gotten a serious injury before we tested for black belt you would give us one. I do not want you to keep your word. Because of the way he treated his students, the Karate instructor was told to get off the mat and teach somewhere else.

The Sparks Judo vs the Stead Air National Guard Contest

The Sparks Judo and Jujitsu Club signed up to do a Judo competition at the Stead Airport with a match against the Stead Air National Guard Judo Team. Sparks prepared by having hard workouts weeks before the competition and after they were done, they would roll up their Judo Gi's without washing them until the next practice. A few days before the contest they let their beards grow to a sandpaper texture.

On the day of the contest the National Guard went out to warm up on the mat with their Gi's bright white and pressed and their hygiene was super clean. They were doing they organized warmups and they called out cadence. The Sparks gang not so much. They were unshaven, grubby, with smelly dirty Gi's. They were doing their separate unorganized strange yoga stretches probably while grunting. As this hygiene was never allowed at the Dojo it was a strategy to throw the competitor off their game at this contest. It did. When getting close enough to throw or to grapple the Sparks players was very unpleasant and the abrasive texture of their whiskers was painful. Pulling their gi over their opponent's face was a way to submission of their opponent.

The brown belts and the karate school contest

In the late 1970's the Dojo received an invitation from a local Karate school to compete in a Karate contest. Herb told the few brown belts who wanted to compete that you do not know how to follow no contact rules. The brown belts said that they were told that there were few rules and other martial art styles were welcome. When the Sparks Club arrived they though these guys are tough because they did not have wrestling mats laid out. The falls would be on a wooden gym floor would be hard core. The first brown belt quickly threw his karate opponent, and the match was over. The second brown belt choked out this opponent and the match was ended as the katate referee had never seen a choked-out student and they thought that he was dead. There were no more open martial art competitions after that.

The Karate staff demo

Herb, Sensei was brought to a martial art demo in San Francisco by some of his students. A Martial Art Master was doing some Katas and then asked for a volunteer. Herb's students volunteered Herb. The Master had a six foot staff and handed it to Herb. The Master placed the back of his hand against a pillar and told Herb to place the end of the staff against the palm of his hand and press into it as hard as he could from the other end of the staff. Herb did what he was told. The crowd was silent as both martial artist were creating an outstanding display of two powerful martial artists in a ki concentrated battle. At a point the staff exploded in the middle in a burst of shattered wood. The crowd erupted in thunderous ovation. The Master was upset, and Herb did not know why as it was a great demo. Unknown to Herb the demo was intended for the master to use a simple Katate Hazushi move to escape against Herb pinning his hand. I believe the Master tried on more demo with Herb and he said grab my wrist as hard as you can. Herb softly said are you sure? I can grab pretty hard. The Master said to go ahead, and Herb dropped the Master to his knees in pain.

The Masters after Party

After the demo, the Instructors of the Martial Arts Demo were at a Denny's style restaurant seated at a larger table. A few famous respected martial art masters were there with the still angry Master who did the demo with Herb. Herb was going to use the restroom when the Master pointed his finger at Herb and said "You do not think my martial art is good! Herb Said "I think you demonstrated what you know very well". A young instructor told herb in private to please forgive the old master who is out of line. Herb would have let it go except that when he went to use the restroom two of the old master's students came in to teach Herb a lesson. Herb blocked one attacker and pushed him into the wall and as he walked to the student blocking the door the student moved out of the way. Herb walked back into the restraint and the old master said I am going to teach you a lesson. Herb threw up his hands in exasperation and said FINE let's do this as he walked into the parking lot. By now all of the customers eating in the restaurant had vacated and were nowhere to be seen. While in the parking lot the old master said we will not do this here, but I will send a Jujitsu Master to come and beat you up. Herb said Fine here is my card send him.

Professor Browne from the east coast, a good friend of Herb called Herb. Prof. Said what is up this guy? He wants me to come and kick your ass. I told him that I would need a lot of help.

The Taekwondo master challenge at the Nibukikan

In the 1970's a Master from Korea came into the Nibukikan in Chico, California. The master stepped on the mat during a black belt class and started doing katas. This was very disrespectful breaking of the Dojo protocol, but it was a humorous thing to see. The master said does anyone want to spar? The younger Herb smiled and nodded his head to Prof B. and Herb was allowed to welcome the uninvited guest. The master said what are the rules Herb said we have no rules. The master said Ok Herb did a quick palm strike to the masters eye and dropped him on his butt. The master quickly stepped off the mat. He started signing some copies of a martial art magazine that he was on the cover for some nearby kids.

The Gas station test

Before my time Herb, Sensei would tell the brown belts to be on guard when away from the club as he may attack them as part of the test for their Black Belt. One night Herb saw a brown belt student in a gas station office, Herb snuck up and grabbed the student from behind. The student threw his Sensei a shoulder throw and as Herb was on the floor he said to his dad I would like to introduce you to my Sensei.

Cutting the cucumber

A local public broadcast TV show hosted Herb, Sensei, and a karate master to do separate demonstrations live on TV. By agreement, the Karate teacher would do his demo second in the honored spot in the program. Herb was asked to do a Katana demo, so Herb brought a Katana. The host produced a cucumber and asked if Herb could cut a cucumber off the body of his student. Herb agreed and the host asked, "can you do it blind folded?" Herb said OK. Although it would be the first time he ever tried it blindfolded he agreed. Unknown to Herb and his student assistant her parents were watching on TV. The cucumber was placed on the length of her throat. Herb, Sensei was blind folded, and Herb did a short solo sword kata sequence and at the end he dropped to one knee and cut the cucumber on the students throat. The karate teacher was shook up by Herbs demo. He tried to do his board and brick breaking demo and failed to break any of his bricks or boards.

Stories from the new Bushidokan Temple Dojo

Story of Gracie bros

Our school was hosting an AJJF International Dan Zan Ryu. As Herb, Sensei was walking past a group of his senior ranks a Prof. call Herb over. The Prof. said, “lay down on the ground on your back this guy is going to straddle you see if you can escape”. Herb laid down and after the man knelt down and straddled Herb. Herb did a Shinnin technique and slipped out the side and took an armbar on the man. Herb stood up and asked if he could leave as he was teaching a class. The Prof’s smiled and waved him to go. Later Herb was told the man was a Gracie brother who was going to demonstrate how their mounted attack wins against all other martial arts. Gracie expected our Dan Zan Ryu was like all the standup martial arts that they fought. The defender would be subjected to punches reach up and get an armbar applied or they would and turn their back and Gracie would apply a Gi less choke.

When Herb approached Gracie, Gracie began to promote their first US televised Ultimate Fighting Championship having all types of martial art competitors to show that their Brazilian Jiu jitsu was the best martial arts in the world. Gracie said that the first prize was 50,000 dollars. Herb said sign me up I could use that money. Gracie said twice, no Dan Zan Ryu.

The Ninja torture stick challenge

At a national martial art convention, a master ninja instructor challenged a Dan Zan Ryu member to escape out of a 7 torture stick hold down. Herb, Sensei took the challenge to be performed in a private with his upper rank teachers attending. The Ninja had a katana and after Herb accepted the challenge the Ninja said Herb would have to agree that if he did not escape that the Ninja would cut Herb’s head off. The 7 stick hold down was described and how he escaped to us. Herb said that the threat of the katana was effective and helpful to his accomplished escape.

Ivan Ochoa doing the escape posted by Tom Ryan, Sensei



Sparks Club changes to the Bushidokan Martial Art Temple Herb,

Sensei had problems with a black belt that was openly asserting himself with his style of teaching while forming a click in the Sparks Judo and Jujitsu Club. Herb, Sensei was going on a trip and gave the school to the black belt to manage while he was gone. I sensed it was a test to see how the black belt could manage the school and possibly turn the school over to the black belt. When Herb returned, he heard of conflict, lower student numbers, and disparaging remarks directed towards him. A little while later Herb had a special class. At that time the head of the mat was directly across from the mat entrance. Herb had us line up to the left wall in Seiza. The black belt walked up and bowed onto the mat looking puzzled at the new sitting arrangements. Herb



announced that the new name of the school is The Bushidokan Martial Art Temple and that he was the only Sensei and under his direction this Dojo and his authority will be respected by all of the students. Also, if anyone has a problem with that they should leave. The black belt and a couple of his students left and did not return. The Mon for the dojo was the seagull from the Johnathan Livingston seagull book.

Herb, Sensei International traveler

Herb on the streets of Cairo at night

Herb and his girlfriend were staying at a Cairo hotel and Herb walked out past the front desk to go exploring the streets at night. The hotel front desk person was frantic telling the girlfriend I tried to stop him because it is dangerous out there for a foreign guest, very dangerous. The girlfriend laughed at the concerned manager. Herb noticed how much that he stood out and the locals either looked at him in wonder at his dress and at his wealthy appearance or some looked at him as if he was a foreign devil. Herb walked down a one lane narrow street and found that it was a dead end and people were following him. As Herb turned back and walked along the sidewalk next to a cargo truck with slats holding the content. The slat was removed and while dumping the contents on Herb. Herb did a side roll under the truck to the street and came up holding his Dorje that he kept in his shoulder holster as a “Meditation devise”. The people who attempted to harm Herb scattered as Herb was a crazy foreigner possessing a Tibetan Scepter was a clear warning not to be messed with.



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 kings 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 ponytail. 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

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 with 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 for all 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. They were large ferocious and luckily for us they used the head instructors son to demonstrate their techniques on. These martial artist 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.

Prof. Tioli from Italy



From my book **Martial Arts Kata and Beyond Part 1 White Belt to Green Belt**

During Prof. Herbs trip to Italy he met Prof. Tioli. They became friends and Prof. Tioli came to the US and stayed at our Dojo and as our guest we went to national jujitsu conventions, special Bushidokan classes, and events. Prof Tioli said that his style was Jujitsu but in that part of the world their Jujitsu was a modern mixture of Akido and Judo as there were no traditional old schools of classical Jujitsu available. Go into a right cat stance, your right foot is forward. Place your left hand to the right side of your face and your left-hand down blocking to check a knee strike. Your right hand does a shuto to Uke's right short ribs. Use your right hand to hook Uke's right elbow into your chest. Your left-hand pushes Uke's right side of their chin to the left as you turn to the left. Push Uke down to your feet. Slide your right hand to push Uke's right elbow behind their back. As Uke is on their left side, your right knee pins Uke's right elbow. Your right hand can punch right side of Uke's neck while continuing the pin on Uke's right elbow and the pressure on their chin with your left hand.

Stories about DZR Zenyo Chinese -Tibetan Roots

In the late 1990's Herb , Sensei started telling his second generation Black Belt students that In the 1950's his father learned a style of martial arts that he called Jujutsu. His dad said that he learned it from a Chinese railroad cook after Bert got in between the cook and an angry group of white railroad workers. Bert "saved" the cook from a beating. The cook thanked Bert and explained that he knew how to protect himself but if he had defended himself the white workers would have retaliated against the rest of the Chinese foreign workers. The cook offered to teach Bert his Jujutsu, but Herb could only teach it in its entirety to his first-born son James LaGue.

The term Jujutsu was a generic Japanese term in the 1950's. Later in the 2000's Herb traveled with several students to Dharamshala India where the Dali Lama is in exile. Herb had noticed that the Lama dance was almost exactly like the one that his dad taught him except his version had the striking and other martial art elements in it. While visiting a high-ranking Tibetan Lama (Lama Jigme) to live at the dojo in sparks we were taught Lama La's Yoga.

Herb demonstrated his dad's "jijitsu" katas to Lama La a high-ranking Tibetan Lama and he said it was from the same teachings. Through later research we were told that the likely name of Bert's system that he taught Herb was Lama Pai Kung Fu. The story goes that H.H. Dalai Lama gave Herb permission start teaching Herb's Tibetan martial arts to his monks and to Herbs students. This had become a missing and needed part of the monks training. Bert's original Chinese Cook teacher's requirement of secrecy to Herb's non-family members was removed.

Stories from Dharamshala

Prof. Herb would have special classes along with pictures sharing his recent journey to India. He would tell of the crazy traffic getting there in fast moving chaotic narrow roads. One person on the bus would be in charge of quickly moving the passenger side mirror towards the bus and then back out to avoid it breaking off from oncoming traffic. A small café served the food on newspaper and while eating they noticed the walls appeared to move as if alive. It was completely covered with live flies.

Our former student and then a resident Buddhist Nun was asked to recommend a hike around the mountains for Herb and his companions. The short day hike was misunderstood, and the guides took Herb's group on the extreme trek with hundred foot drops and disappearing paths on the side of a cliff. The guides brought long sticks to bridge the gap in the footpath and place flat rocks across the poles to walk across. The group spent the night on the hard ground next to a cave. They wondered if they could survive their little day hike. After telling all the terrifying stories of their many close encounters with death Herb would say "We had a great time you should go with us next trip"!

The reaction from the AJJF of Herbs different footwork

Herb said that Prof. Estes liked his footwork from his dad and to share it with the Professors. Herb tried to teach the Professors his footwork and flavor of DZR and the Profs said I cannot move like that.

Later in the late 1990's I witnessed a growing respect for the "Beginning" kata arts of our DZR list of Yawara with Herbs dad's footwork. Herb was a new Professor ranked as a fifth degree black belt. These classes were mostly attended by lower colored belts and the upper Kyu and Dan ranks were at "Higher" level DZR classes. The word got around and in the next Yawara class it gained in popularity. As other ranks attended the basic Yawara list became more of an applied or practical self-defense list rather than just a Kata list of escapes or wrist - finger locks.

Basic DZR Yawara Footwork

As an example doing the first Yawara art Katate Hazushi Ichi you can shuffle step forward to do a prying escape or as in this illustration step slightly to your left front corner and slide your right foot to engage your hip into the escape

DanZan Ryu Waza (off the line of attack) from left outside hand grab applied to self defense



Zenyo Heel Toe Pivot and the Wave

Zenyo Heel-Toe Complete Pivot to the Left



While looking forward in the same that direction as your hips and shoulders face, pick up the toes on your left foot (#1) and turn all the way to the left until you get locked up. (#2) Unlock the movement by lifting your right heel and pivoting on the ball of your right foot until your right knee ends up in your calf muscle as you corkscrew down to your left, facing 180 degrees to your rear (#3). To return, pick up the toe in the direction you want to go. Pivot on the heel of your left foot and the ball of your right foot to middle position (#4).

Zenyo Footwork “The Wave”



Shift your weight back and down to your left foot (#2). Pick up your right knee and step back to the same spot (#3). Your left knee moves up and forward like you are doing a knee strike (#5). Circle your left foot up, back and down to pull you back away from Uke (#7) as you shuffle-step back with your right foot to the L-shape defensive stance.

Step-Step Footwork



Step-Step Footwork

This footwork is also found in Japanese weapon arts. Step forward with your left foot, pivoting on the ball of your right foot to position #2. From position #2 step with your right foot behind your left foot to position #3. From position #3 step forward to position #4. From position #4 step behind your right foot with your left foot to position #5 while pivoting on the ball of your right foot. The footwork is left, right, right, left or 1, 2, 1, 2. Keeping your hips and shoulders facing the same direction gives you unification of body movement.

Yawara DZR and DZR Zenyo Bujutsu differences

Katate Hazushi Ichi Dan Zan Ryu (as I was introduced to it)



At this time in 1977 Prof Estes was focused on the escape and not getting close enough for Uke to strike you. I learned in 1981 to step forward slightly with my left foot to emphasize a push with my elbow to the outside of Uke's right arm then shuffle step back like Prof. did.

The Wave Footwork Zenyo Katate Hazushi Ichi



While keeping your hands ready to counter attack and closing the gap to get behind or to be close enough to do combination strikes, locks, or throws is a Zenyo option. Prof. Herb is showing the left knee up ,forward and back to escape to his rear.

The next Zenyo list of throws called Nage

With a full description and illustrations of DanZan Ryu Zenyo arts found in this authors book Martial Arts Kata and Beyond, Part 1 and Part 2 White Belt to First Degree Black Belt the differences from Basic-Judo style Nage is clear to most DZR practitioners. While looking at advanced Black Belt Judo books many of Prof. Herb's arts do not look that different but the advanced Zenyo arts appear unique in several ways.

a video of DanZan Ryu and DZR Zenyo Differences is available at www.bobasan.net on the video page

Stories from the Bushidokan Era

The Magic Bus

The second generation of Bushidokan Black Belts that I was part of in the 1980s and 1990s had the honor of making many trips in Sensei Herb's converted 1940s Oakland Transit bus, which doubled as residence for our Sensei.

Stuck

We were arriving at the Nibukikan in Chico, California for an event the next day. Our goal was to park behind the Dojo and go party. The Master of the Bus hit a slight dip and we became hopelessly wedged in between the buildings next to the Dojo's side door. Unable to open the bus door, I think it was Herb who climbed out of the bathroom vent to bounce on the bus's front bumper while someone else gave it some gas and turned the wheel to dislodge the slightly wounded Dojo and bus.

Animal Games

From Professor Steve McLaughlin:

“Professor Musselman visited our dojo here in Hawaii and suggested that we go to the Honolulu Zoo and try out our silent Kiai and Tiger Stare. It was quite effective! Don't get the monkeys going though, it takes them all day to settle down. The tigers and other animals would react to how the techniques were done with either anger or friendship. It also worked well on Namaste, the white tiger in the Big Island Zoo. But it especially worked in the butterfly cage! Yes, it really does work and is not to be toyed with. You can lose friends and students doing this. It is also an excellent way to find out if someone is lying to you.”

The Ape Energy

We were taught that we needed to explore the fighting spirit, so we could learn to understand it, channel it, or put our animal back into its cage where appropriate. One way to do this is a projection through the eyes called the tiger stare or the Hawaiian stink eye. We were taught not to practice this art or intention on other people or dogs, as it can trigger increased aggression. Instead, Sensei suggested playing with it with the apes at the zoo. I tried it: standing safely outside the cage, I locked onto the ape's eyes. He became increasingly agitated, and suddenly reached down, grabbed a square piece of grass turf, and threw it over the fence to land at my feet. I like to think that he was saying, "This is my turf, not yours!"

Animal Communication

Herb, Sensei was at the zoo with some students. He demonstrated the aggressive look (also known as the Hawaiian stink eye), used to intimidate opponents, towards the ape enclosure. The apes' reaction was immediate agitation, as was expected. Sensei went to the llama enclosure with some students and tried something new, projecting love toward a herd of llamas some distance away. The students were startled as the llama herd turned their heads towards Sensei and charged to the edge of the enclosure, stopped, and looked at Sensei as if to say, "Okay, what do you want?"

"No one told me I couldn't get out of the hold"

As an old story goes... In class one day, the students were all attempting to get out of a hold that Sensei said no one could get out of. A student came in late to class and joined the other students. The student was placed in the hold and he escaped. Another student said, "Hey Sensei, how did he get out of the hold that was inescapable?" The Sensei said, "No one told him he could not get out of it."

As a brown belt at the Sparks Dojo, I missed the instruction on how to escape the 4 torture stick standing hold. I was hesitant to try it, not knowing the escape. Just before the sticks were applied I thought I heard Sensei Herb whisper, "Imagine that you are already standing outside the sticks." I got out somehow, going straight down through the sticks without turning. When Sensei joked, saying, "You should not have been able to get out that way!" I remembered the no one could get out of the hold story and I said, "Sorry Sensei, you did not tell me that I could not escape that way!"

Professor Herb LaGue, Shodai

That Was Then

At our Dojo in the late 1980s, our Sensei was mostly hands-off when teaching the kata upper lists. Sensei encouraged the seven of us new Shodan's (when Steve, Ken, or Tom were not there) to figure it out for ourselves. The idea was that we learned by practicing what we were shown. The strategy is to show the students the art and then let them practice on their own. If we practiced it, we would come up with good questions. In this way, the Sensei knows that we have been working on the arts that he showed us. After one or two demonstrations, Sensei would watch the Wednesday night Black Belt class from the edge of the mat, then walk away to let us practice without making corrections. At some point we were left to manage our Black Belt class practice for ourselves.

We seemed to spend the first year of Black Belt classes arguing about what we should practice. Finally, at one class we decided to pick two of us to take turns leading class, and the next week two other Black Belts would teach. We learned to better tolerate each other's different styles and each other's approach to the arts. This helped us to become better at teaching the Kyu rank (pre-black belt) classes without interfering in another Dan ranks' classes. This also kept us from arguing in front of the Kyu ranks. I was always impressed by the positive results from the next generation of Black Belts.

They did not have the same problems that we had, and they seemed to work together better than we did. The next generation treated each other and us with respect. When another person is teaching class for me or is leading rolls and falls, I continue to work on not interfering unless it is a matter of safety. I always try not to interfere over small style differences or methods taught.

Like an older professor once said, "Do not pole vault over mouse turds." Needlessly arguing over little things is not needed. We can agree to disagree in private.

The Pool Table Lift Story

There is a Ki exercise (or a group object lesson) in which, after doing a collective pre-Ki exercise meditation, four people place their first and second fingers together with both hands under the shoulders and ankles of a rigid person lying on the ground face up. These four people can then lift the person off the ground with little effort. While laying a custom carpet job in a mountain town in California, Herb, a relative, and some Jujitsu students were presented with a problem. How do we move this large, heavy slate pool table up over this roll of new carpet to finish this job? Herb led three other students in the Ki exercise, and then they placed their fingers under the four corners of the pool table, easily lifting it up and over the carpet roll to the other side. Herb's relative yelled, "I told you not to do that voodoo crap around me!" Then he got into the car and drove off, leaving Herb and the students stranded.

The Man on the Street 1

Herb and a Black Belt named Jeff were going to breakfast in Chico, California before a Jujitsu event. Jeff saw a man sitting in a storefront being moved out by a police officer. As the man stood up, his bottle of booze broke on the sidewalk. The man heard Jeff laugh at him. After the officer left, the man came walking quickly toward Herb and Jeff. Jeff called out to Herb, "Sensei!" Herb knew that something was up. The usual protocol was for his students to call him Herb off the mat and to only use the title Sensei when they wanted to talk to him in a formal student-teacher relationship. Herb saw the angry man coming and pushed Jeff off to the side. As the man approached Sensei, the angry man stopped, then suddenly spread his arms and gave Sensei a warm bear hug. The now-confused man backed away and looked at both Herb and Jeff like they were from another planet. Herb said, "Don't try to talk. We are going to breakfast; come with us, our treat." The man said nothing and quickly walked away. Herb may have used the martial art compassion trick to help the man stop his attack.

Morning Wake Up

I was with our favorite Reno police officer and then brown belt and morning class student Rick. After morning class we went to wake Sensei Herb to invite him to breakfast at our usual Silver Club Restaurant morning hangout. Rick went to the bus that Herb lived in and pounded on the door, then rocked the bus, shouting something like, "Wake up, old man!" Herb had been asleep and as he flung the door open he saw Rick with that great smile saying, "Come on, Sensei, it's time for breakfast." For a moment I was horrified, but Herb, as he often did with his Jujitsu students, cut us some slack for the prank and the rude wake up. I do not recommend this kind of treatment of your Sensei!

The Man on the Street 2

A man was acting strangely on the sidewalk in San Francisco. He was wearing a karate uniform and a black belt, yelling, kicking, and punching the air. This sort of behavior is a breach in protocol for a black belt, as the man was indirectly representing all black belts. Herb and a few students saw the man demonstrating this strange and inappropriate behavior. Herb went over him and said, "You are in public take off that black belt now!" This is a breach in protocol to some black belts as the man was indirectly representing all black belts. The man refused to take off and carry his black belt. Herb slapped him on the face once, quickly untied the belt, and told the man, "It's mine now!" Then he flung the belt over his shoulder and walked away.

The Barroom Fight

Herb and some students were in a bar after an out of town event. Two drunk men were getting loud and working themselves up to a fist fight. When they started throwing punches, they did so with so little skill that Herb and the students started laughing at them. The more they fought the more laughter they heard. The men were upset by the laughter and took their "fight" outside.

The Van Crash

Herb was driving a group of Bushidokan black belts in a rented van when another car ran a red light and T-boned their van. Herb said that he saw the airbag deploy and instinctively did a double forearm block, breaking the airbag before it hit him. There was white powder from the air bag all over the interior of the van, but no one inside was hurt. The police showed up and were looking for the victims of the totaled van.

The officer said, “Where are they, how badly are they hurt?” Herb said, “We were in the van,” pointing to his group on the sidewalk. The officer said, “No way!” He refused to believe that someone could have survived unhurt from the crashed van. Herb never gave me an explanation as to how no one got hurt. Perhaps luck or their practice of taking falls and Ki exercises to be relaxed during a traumatic attack helped to protect them.

Don’t Tease Sensei!

After teaching a night class at the Bushidokan, I was standing by the front door of the Dojo at 9:30 pm when I realized that I had forgotten to say goodbye to Herb, Sensei. I saw a new resident near the front door looking at me and probably thinking, “Who the hell is this guy?” I told him, “Go tell Herb that someone is at the Dojo front door and he said that he is here to kick Herb’s ass!” The new resident said, “No way am I going to tell him that!” I told him, “It will be okay, just do it!” What seemed like seconds later, two larger-than-life figures appeared at the Dojo door, looking around to see who needed a good old-fashioned Jujitsu lesson. It was Sensei Herb and Mike Miller. I said, “Hi Sensei, I just wanted to say good night!” then turned and walked to my car. Fortunately, they both forgave me for my prank.

The UFO

I was out in front of Herb’s bus late at night when I saw a UFO hovering in the sky. I called Herb out of his bus to see it. He looked up to the sound and sight of a small Cessna airplane that slowly flew over us. Herb said casually, “Nice disguise,” he then walked back into the bus.

An Old Man Gang Defense

An old man was attacked in a parking garage by 6 attackers. A martial artist pulled up in his car to the incident amazed to see the old man dance and flow around the attackers who were flying around without barely touching the old man. After it was over some of the attackers were laying on the ground in pain and a few others ran away from the old man. The old man looked at the martial artist in the car and said “Hey! Next time how about a little help!”

The Choke-Out Treatment

Herb was rudely awakened by someone knocking on his bus early in the morning. He answered the door to a drunk angry man yelling, "Where is Bobasan?" Herb said, "Bob is not here, come back later in the day." Then he closed the door to go back to sleep.

His wife and student Suki said, "Herb, go make sure that he has left the Dojo." Herb grumbled, but he put on some clothes and found the drunk guy inside the Dojo. Suki was curious and got up to see what happened. A few minutes later she saw Herb dragging the drunk out of the Dojo door by his feet, his head bouncing a little on the Dojo steps on the way down. Apparently, just before being dragged out, the drunk man had turned to Herb in the downstairs of the Dojo and asked, "Can I test you?" Wanting to get it over with and go back to bed, Herb said, "Okay, go for it!" The man attacked Herb and Herb did a carotid choke on him to put him to sleep. After dragging the man outside the Dojo, Herb turned around to go back to bed and leave the man to recover on his own. But Suki yelled, "Herb, revive him!" Herb sat the drunk man up and did a slap kick to the man's sacrum.

The drunk suddenly woke up and realized that he was outside and that he had shit himself. He realized that he had crossed the line and that Sensei Herb had been generous in not hurting him. He got to his feet and walked away laughing yelling, "Thank you for the lesson, Sensei, thank you,"

The next day I heard about what happened, so, as a joke, I called Herb and left a message on Herb's phone saying, "Hi Sensei, I was the guy who took a punch at you last night, I am constipated when can I come back in for another treatment?" Herb told us about the message, and I told him that I had left it. Later we figured out that the drunk guy had been a student for a couple of classes. He was drunk the morning of the attack and was looking for me to take his aggression out on, knowing that I would not get hurt and that I was skilled enough not to hurt him.

The Short Version

Professor Steve McLaughlin was testing for a black belt rank at a national exam. His uke countered an arm press take down by rolling out of it. Steve flipped-flopped him around until the uke was on his face, then performed the finishing hold. An examining professor asked, “Is that how you usually do that art?” Steve said, “Oh, you want the short version.” He told the uke, “I am going to take you down to your face and this time if you try to roll out you will hurt yourself.” Then he did the flawless kata art. One professor examining Steve put his clipboard down. In his eyes, Steve had just passed the exam.

Herb’s Self-anesthesia

Herb Sensei went to the hospital for a hernia operation. He had found a doctor who would allow him to do self-anesthesia using only acupuncture, but he was required to have an observing anesthesiologist there as a backup. The anesthesiologist was very skeptical and said, “You are going to need me.” Herb replied, “I might only need a local shot if I misplace an acupuncture needle.” The doctor had a great time during the operation as Herb was fully conscious throughout. The doctor would ask, “How does this feel? How does that feel?” and Herb would describe mild sensations, but he did not feel any pain. The standby anesthesiologist’s services were not needed, and he was baffled. Herb was too active during the healing process and had to have another repair operation for the hernia. The same doctor did the surgery, and a different anesthesiologist was on standby. This time Herb had Suki, a high-ranking student, assist him because some of the acupuncture needles were hard to place by himself. He also applied mild electricity to the acupuncture needles for added effectiveness. The new anesthesiologist was so impressed that he refunded his fee as a standby anesthesiologist for that operation to Herb.

Skateboard Shoulder Dislocation

An adult student was riding a skateboard on the sidewalk next to the Dojo when she fell and dislocated her shoulder. She went to Herb, Sensei to treat her injury. Before the swelling got too severe, he put her shoulder back in place and used athletic taping to hold it in place. Herb then took her to the hospital to get the shoulder X-rayed to make sure that there were no fractures. The X-ray technician started to take off the tape holding her shoulder in place. Herb said, "What are you doing? The shoulder will dislocate!" The X-ray tech said, "I know, but the tape needs to be removed so I can X-ray it, and then after the X-ray the doctor will need to anesthetize the area and pull the shoulder out to relocate it." Herb would not allow this and convinced the tech to X-ray her shoulder through the tape. The shoulder was healed with the use of DanZan Ryu healing arts.

The court case

Herb's lady student came to Herb because a male brown belt of Herb was abusing her, and she needed protection. The brown belt came onto the mat demanding that Herb tell his girlfriend to come with him. Herb refused. A physical conflict ensued, and the fight ended up outside with the brown belt's face meeting the curb. Herb went to court where the prosecutor had the martial artist Chuck Norris testify how lethal a third degree black belt skills like Herb's were. Lucky for Herb that the judge was Mills Lane a bad ass who was also a referee for championship boxing matches. Mills Lane said if someone comes into a man's home and attacks the owner like Mr. LaGue was he has the right to remove him and defend himself. Judge Lane said the attacker knew Mr. LaGue's third degree black belt ranking so the attacker knew that he might be able to kill Mr. LaGue and certainly not be able to beat him up. So the attacker attacked with the intent to kill. Case dismissed.

Herb during the trial was rubbing a sore knuckle so when he went home he noticed the attackers tooth was embedded in his knuckle. He asked one of his students to pull it out with some pliers. The student was grossed out and declined while a lady black belt had no problem with the request and yanked it out.

Prison Time

Herb was set up by a gold miner that worked for him claiming that the illegal weapon found in his possession belonged to Herb. Herb was sentenced to thirty years to federal prison. After three months with political pressure against this unjust sentence Herb was released.

Escorting Herb to Prison

During the transport to prison a US Marshal and Herb talked. Later Herb heard that the Marshal had quit because he felt sorry for Herb being set up for a bogus charge.

The prison challenge

Herb was in the prison yard and a large and squat built prisoner told Herb that I heard that you do Judo try and throw me. Herb went in for a major hip throw as the prisoner anticipated the throw forward he countered it by bending his knees and dropping his butt back and down. Herb reversed the direction and swept the prisoners leg with an inside sweep to the rear dropping the prisoner on his butt. The prisoner or his friends did not bother Herb again, **Yogananda in prison**

Autobiography of a Yogi is an autobiography of Paramahansa Yogananda which herb was reading and Yogananda's group was using Herbs family's property to publish his books. Herb was meditating in his prison cell and he had many lessons from Yogananda during his meditations. Herb had a couple of cellmates and he told them that while they were in his cell they would follow his and the prison rules. Herb's rules were to get up do a clean the cell do, some exercises, practice self defense from inmate attacks. At night they would clean the cell and meditate. The cell guards would rotate other problem prisoners through Herb's cell when they noticed the positive effect that Herb's mentorship had on them. Herb also taught the prison guards how to defend and humanly restrain the inmates.

The paranoid prisoner

Herb noticed an inmate across from his cell staring at him for hours. Herb turned the prisoners paranoia on him by saying who are you and why are you out to get me! The inmate was shocked and started to defend him self saying I am not going to get you I thought you were coming to get me! Herb and the other inmate became friendly, and Herb joked with the inmate saying while watching a football game on TV while they are in a huddle do you think that they are talking about you? The paranoid inmate said yes I know they were!

Unusual and supernatural experiences

The Long Trip

We were traveling on the Magic Bus in the pitch black of early morning on California Hwy 5 towards a Jujitsu event. Everyone was asleep except for Jeff Dearing and me. We were both up front wide awake in amazement. We were watching Herb drive for a few hours with both eyes closed, occasionally opening them up, glancing to check our progress, then slowly closing them again. He kept the bus at a proper speed and right on track to get us safely to our destination on time.

Gold Mine Stories

Herb went up to his family's gold mine during the winter. The other miners forgot to leave the snow cat near the bottom of the hill and Herb had some supplies that needed to deliver. He tried to hike to the cabin, but the snow was too deep. So in frustration he somehow jumped up and started running on top of the soft snow to the cabin to drive the snow cat back to the car.

Weird scenes in the gold mine camp

One night while the mine workers were sleeping there was a strange humming noise and very bright lights shining around the camp. There seemed to be strange looking visitors with large eyes looking into the cabin at the isolated camp. Several hours seemed to pass within a few minutes. All the other miners reported some kind of strange occurrence that night.

Crystal city in the desert

While a car full of friends were driving in the desert near Las Vegas of a side road appeared a massive futuristic transparent crystal city of sky scrapers. Herb want to turn back and drive towards it, but he was outvoted by the rest of the cars frightened occupants. It appeared to be a city that was not really there.

Alien in the closet

While sleeping in his bus. Herb suddenly woke up and next to him was an alien face looking at him as if he were protecting him during his sleep. The face faded away. **Alien medical class**

As Herb was doing his lucid dreaming projection exercise he found himself looking into a round window in a door to a room. A gray alien with large eyes appeared in the window and telepathically

communicated for Herb to enter. Herb was now in a hospital operation room with people lying on tables. The alien was next to Herb telepathically diagnosing and telling Herb how to treat the patients.

Calvary retreat

While driving in the desert Herb saw a US Cavalry Unit from the 1860's racing through the desert. Soon he saw a tribe of native American warriors chasing them.



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Beam of light

While flying in a commercial airline to Europe Herb was looking out the window and he saw a massive beam of light like a laser beam coming from far above and down into the Ocean.

Memory metal

Herb was given a piece of tinfoil like metal that you could not tear or cut. You could also crumble it up and it would return back to its original shape. It also had some strange hieroglyphic writing on it. Herb took it to the Berkley University science department to analyze. He inquired back later, and they had no record of the sample that he gave to them to test.

The special carburetor

At a Ford dealership a customer came in for a minor repair. When the part number came up in their manual there was an important notice to keep the carburetor at the parts department and immediately contact Ford Motorcar headquarters. They flew a representative to Reno the next day who took the carburetor back with him. They replaced the carb with a stock one. The customer came in complaining that his gas milage went from 60 miles per gallon to 15 miles per gallon after he brought it in for service. The customer service person said that 15 miles per gallon was normal for his car. One theory was that the 60 miles per gallon carb was experimental and not popular with the oil companies.

Conclusion for now

If I have been incorrect in reporting these stories (I am sure that I have) Email me and I can correct this PDF,

.Herb, Sensei wants to write his story his way and I will withdraw this attempt to share with black belts who missed a story or two. If you want to include a story let me know.

In Service to the Ryu

Prof. Bob Karnes

www.bobasan.net

bobasan@hotmail.com