



OBON SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Pearl Harbor Stories

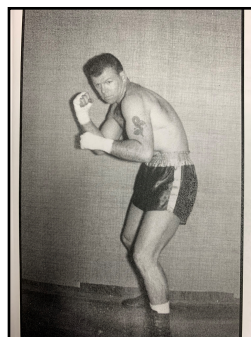
Ed Johann: Part Four

Ed Johann's memory of Pearl Harbor was not about heroics...but of his own personal failings. He never forgot the time he was hanging on to two sailors, dragging them through the water on the return to the hospital ship. His arms were too weak and he just couldn't hold on...so he let go of one man. When he told the story he said.... *"I don't know what happened to that guy...I hope someone else rescued him."*

Maybe it was this memory of his weakness at Pearl Harbor that inspired him to exercise. We really can't say. But what we can say is that Ed Johann did build up muscles. He became very strong. In fact, he won body-building competitions decades before it was popular.



Then he became a boxer and turned semi-professional.



While that was going in in his life he became a firefighter in Portland, Oregon. And he started to climb mountains. And Ed didn't just climb one or two mountains...he climbed most of the mountains between Alaska to Peru. He stood on summit of Mt. Hood more than 250 times, climbed in Norway, scaled the highest mountain in Peru's Andes, climbed all of Mexico's volcanos and the highest volcano in Central America. Ed saw more lofty views than most people who've ever lived.



Ed and his wife purchased a plot in Lincoln City, where he built a small cabin with his own hands. After retirement they moved there and began to enjoy life at the beach. Ed wrote articles and poems published in the local newspaper and this led to his city-wide popularity that thrust him into politics.

He served two terms on the city council, then graciously retired. However, the people wanted more so despite not being on the ballot he received so many write-in votes he had to serve a third term. *"They wouldn't let me quit."* he complained with a laugh. So, in his spare time he founded a local museum.

Ed's little house was exactly like him...unpredictable, tidy, eclectic and full of surprises.



The house Ed built



Keiko visiting Ed



Ed's WWII recognition



Ed's kitchen table

Every shelf was filled with Indian beads, books, bobble heads, trinkets, sea shells and photographs.



Ed in his living room

To be continued....Ed's final chapter.