

The Life of Professor Francis Merlin (Bud) Estes

October 1, 1909 – June 7, 1981

Truth, Myth or Stolen Valor

Inquiries by Bob McKean

As a member of the Danzan Ryu community for over forty-five years, I have always been interested in the history of Professor Henry Seishiro Okazaki (1890-1951), his black belt disciples and the development of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu. Danzan Ryu is less than 100 years old and unfortunately we, the Danzan Ryu community, have not been diligent in accurately recording much of our own history. Many of the early records, documents, photographs and certificates pertaining to Danzan Ryu have been either lost, destroyed, or hoarded away and are not available to the general Danzan Ryu community.

The American Judo & Jujitsu Federation (AJJF) was founded in 1948 by four of Professor Okazaki's black belt disciples - John Cahill, Rick Rickerts, Bud Estes and Ray Law. Professor Bud Estes (1909 – 1981) was the last active surviving founder of the AJJF. Professor Rickerts passed away in 1998 and had not been active in the AJJF for many years. Professor Cahill passed in 1962 and Professor Law in 1969.

Professor Estes dedicated most of his life to propagating the teachings of Professor Okazaki and his system of jujitsu. The development and growth of the AJJF into the largest Danzan Ryu organization can be directly attributed to Professor Estes. Professor Estes was looked upon as an honorable man, and he had a positive influence on many lives. He was a teacher, a mentor and a friend to many people.

During my years as a student of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu, I have heard many stories about Professor Okazaki and the founding fathers of the AJJF. These stories were told by a number of different AJJF Professors. Many of these stories continue to be passed down by word of mouth. Some of these stories have been put into print and can be found on the Internet. What many of us are starting to discover is that some of these stories cannot be verified as being factual, accurate or true.

An article in the 2013 summer issue of the *Kiai Echo* titled, *Danzan Ryu: A System of Kodenkan Judo and Jujitsu*, was written by AJJF Professor Tom Ryan. In his article Professor Tom Ryan wrote:

“Did you know that Professor Bud Estes had trained and received a black belt in judo in Los Angeles, CA, prior to meeting Master Okazaki?”

This statement was made by a respected and well known AJJF Professor. I'm sure most AJJF readers would assume the statement is correct because Professor Tom Ryan wrote it. The source of the information about Professor Bud Estes receiving a black belt in judo was not presented in Professor Ryan's article.

I'm sure Professor Ryan believed his statement about Professor Estes receiving a black belt in judo was true. I do not believe Professor Ryan was intentionally misleading his readers and his article was written in good faith and with good intentions, but was his statement about Professor Estes accurate?

Something about Professor Ryan's statement did not seem accurate to me. I recalled reading an article by Burl Estes, the nephew of Professor Bud Estes, where he said, "Uncle Bud did not receive a black belt in judo". The article, *UNCLE BUD*, has been posted on several websites, including the American Judo & Jujitsu Federation website. The AJJF membership, and the general Danzan Ryu community, has had access to this article for many years.

The article, *UNCLE BUD*, can be found on the AJJF website, www.ajjf.org under, About the AJJF, People, Deceased Professors – Professor Francis Merlin "Bud" Estes.

After reading Professor Ryan's article I began to research articles written on the life of Professor Estes. Most of these were found on the Internet and past issues of the AJJF's quarterly publication, *Kiai Echo*. I was also able to obtain a copy of an audio tape of Professor Estes lecturing and answering questions from a group of AJJF students. The 120 minute tape was recorded at Hiram Johnson High School in Sacramento, California in 1979.

I was able to recognize the voices of AJJF Professors, Jane Carr, Tom Jenkins and Don Cross asking Professor Estes questions. I could also hear what sounded like several tape recorders clicking on and off during the session.

On this particular audio tape, Professor Estes made numerous statements about his life and his martial arts experience. These are not myths. A myth is a traditional story of unknown authorship. In this situation, the statements come first hand directly from Professor Estes himself. This is not second hand information or hearsay. What I am presenting in this investigative paper is valid evidence, which is often referred to as "best evidence", since it came directly from the original source.

On the 1979 audio recording, Professor Estes makes several statements that I have not been able to verify as being accurate or correct. I will list some of the statements made by Professor Estes and the research information I have been able to collect at this time.

In evaluating the information collected, we must be fair but also realistic in how much weight we put on the known facts and the volume of circumstantial evidence that has been researched and collected thus far.

BOLD wording in quotations indicate direct quotes from the audio tape by Professor Estes.

#1: Did Professor Estes obtain a black belt in Judo?

“I first met up with Judo in 1923 in Los Angeles and I practiced there while I was going to school. When I left Los Angeles, I had a black belt”.

- Professor Estes would have been around 14 years old at the time he started judo.
- According to Professor Estes, and his brother Burl, Professor Estes suffered a gun shot wound to his forearm in 1925. This would mean that Professor Estes had only two years to train and to receive a black belt in judo.
- Is two years a reasonable length of time for anyone to have earned a judo black belt in the 1920s?

According to the article by Burl Estes:

Note: Burl Estes Sr. was the brother of Professor Estes. Burl Estes Jr. was the nephew of Professor Estes and was the author of the article.

Contrary to what was printed in his obituary, dad does not recall Uncle Bud ever practicing judo in Los Angeles when there were no crops to be picked and that he and Uncle Bud went to the Brookline School and Humphries School. The rest of the time they were moving around.

The year 1923 turned out to be another pivotal experience for Uncle Bud. In that year the family traveled to Los Angeles by train and discovered that jobs were scarce.

In 1924 they started “following the fruit.” In other words, they became migrant workers, traveling up and down the Central Valley of California picking apricots, peaches, prunes, grapes, cotton and whatever crops were available. Their source of transportation was a well used Model T Ford, not a large vehicle by anyone’s standards.

Can anyone imagine what it must have been like for a family of six to travel up and down the state, living in tents and picking crops carrying all their worldly possession in a Model T Ford?

It was hard work. Uncle Bud was 15 then and it must have been devastating to him. Dad was six years younger, but still recalls the hardships. The family constantly moved and Uncle Bud and his brothers just as often changed schools. They had no permanent, long time friends and everyone worked to support the family. It was a transient existence and it is no wonder that Uncle Bud dropped out of school when he was 15 years old.

- Is it reasonable to believe that Burl Estes, the brother of Professor Bud Estes, would have known if his brother had actually trained in judo and had obtained a black belt? Having a black belt in martial arts in those days was rather rare.
- If the Estes family were migrant workers and always moving around, “following the fruit”, when did Professor Estes find the time to train in judo and earn a black belt?

- If the Estes family only had a Motel T Ford for transportation, how would have Professor Estes been able to travel any distance to attend judo practice?
- If Professor Estes and his brother were always changing schools, and Professor Estes dropped out of school at age 15, how would he have been able to attend the same judo dojo for any length of time?
- It was a transient existence for the Estes family. They had no permanent, long time friends and everyone worked to support the family. How would have Professor Estes had time to train under a judo sensei any length of time in order to earn a black belt?

Judo Schools in Los Angeles

- According to *Fighting Spirit: Judo in Southern California, 1931 – 1940*, by Ancho Mas Uchima and Larry Kobayashi, “*The first Kodokan judo dojo in Los Angeles was probably Rafu Dojo. Rafu is the Japanese pronunciation of the English ‘L.A.’, the club had various homes in the city’s Little Tokyo district. Rafu Dojo was established about 1910. The club’s first known instructor, Mogusa Nina, 1-dan, was a student of Hajime Isogai Shihan. From 1915-1922, the club was associated with the professional wrestler Tokugoro Ito. Toshitaka Yamauchi Sensei was head instructor in 1930.*”
 - Other judo schools located in Southern California during the 1920s were:
 - Garden Grove Dojo – established in 1928.
 - Coyote Pass Dojo (Monterey Park) – established 1929.
 - Moneta Dojo – established in the late 1920s.
 - Norwalk Dojo – established in the late 1920s.
 - San Gabriel Dojo – established around 1925.
 - San Fernando Dojo – established in 1923
- **“I first met up with Judo in 1923 in Los Angeles”**. There were very few judo schools in the Los Angeles area during the early 1920s. Would Professor Estes have had access to any these schools and would he have had the time and transportation to attend classes on a regular basis?
- Is it reasonable to assume that the judo schools in the 1920s were most likely taught by a Japanese sensei? Would a Japanese sensei, during those years, even allow a non-Japanese student to train in a Japanese martial art, let alone award a black belt to an American teenager with maybe two years of training?
- I interviewed several people who personally knew Professor Estes, and they did not recall Professor Estes ever mentioning the name of the judo dojo where he trained, the actual city and location of the dojo or the name of his judo sensei. None of them ever recalled seeing a judo black belt certificate belonging to Professor Estes from the 1920s.

To date I have not been able to verify the claims made by Professor Bud Estes that he earned a black belt in judo while living in Southern California during the 1920's.

#2: Did Professor Okazaki and Professor Estes travel to Japan on two different occasions to compete in judo during the 1930s?

“He (Prof. Okazaki) took us to Japan twice. He took five of us there to compete with the Meiji University team. They beat us, but they didn’t beat us by far. But from then on we were invited back and they invited us every time we could come. We did well enough so they respected us. From then on we had no problem with them.”

- We have records from the Kodokan in Japan showing Professor Okazaki joined the Kodokan on December 15, 1924, and he was awarded the rank of shodan on January 11, 1925. There are no other entries on Professor Okazaki’s records.
 - If you go by the timeline given by Professor Estes, he earned his black belt in judo in L.A. the same year Professor Okazaki received his shodan in judo from the Kodokan in Japan.
- I have not been able to locate any historical information or documents showing Professor Okazaki traveling back to Japan after his 1924 -1925 trip.
- I have not been able to locate any historical information or documents showing that Professor Okazaki ever took five of his student to Japan during the 1930s.
- The Danzan Ryu Professor’s I have talked with, from several DZR organizations, have not heard of Professor Okazaki ever returning back to Japan after 1925.
- The Meiji University Judo Team was a “judo powerhouse” in the 1930s. Would they have invited Professor Okazaki, a shodan, and an unknown judo school from Hawaii with Caucasian students, to contest with them in Japan?
- Two separate trips from Hawaii to Japan and back would have been significant events for Professor Okazaki. If these events actually took place would it be reasonable to assume that Professor Okazaki, and his students, would have recorded these events somewhere in the history of Danzan Ryu. These would have been important events written about in the Hawaiian newspapers.
- Travel from Hawaii to Japan would have been expensive for Professor Okazaki and his five students. If they were able to obtain the funding for their travel, would it be reasonable to assume they would have spent additional time in Japan training and traveling around the country and not just competing and then going directly back home?

- Is it reasonable to assume that at least one of the four students would have recorded these travels and events somewhere in their own personal notes as well as the history of Danzan Ryu? I have not been able to locate anyone who knows anything about these trips to Japan other than what was said by Professor Estes in 1979.

To date I have not been able to verify the claims made by Professor Estes that he traveled to Japan on two occasions in the 1930s with Professor Okazaki and four others to compete in judo at the Meiji University.

#3: Did Professor Bud Estes meet Professor Okazaki and start his DZR training in 1931?

“He picked some of us to join his class, and we did. The first time we came into the dojo, about 1931 we were there, we got a very cold reception.”

“When I first met him he hadn’t taught any Caucasians, he had some Hawaiians, and had some Chinese and some Japanese in his class, but no haoles.”

According to the article written by Burl Estes

“In 1931 or 32 (probably the former date) Uncle Bud was sent to the Hawaiian Islands (they were still a territory then) to serve with the Salvation Army. Uncle Bud was stationed at the Ewa Plantation, a boy’s home, and reportedly did an excellent job working with the youngsters. A year or two after he arrived he married Arlene Hartman and they had two children, Kimo and little Arlene. They divorced in 1935 or 36 for reasons unknown to me (I wasn’t born until 1944), and his former Wife’s new husband adopted both Kimo and Arlene.”

“Uncle Bud left the Salvation Army in 1935 or 36 and went to work for a Curley Friedman. According to dad, Curley Friedman (Freedman) introduced Uncle Bud to judo. A black belt instructor himself, he introduced Uncle Bud to Henry Okazaki and they started working out at Okazaki’s dojo. Uncle Bud also met Rick Rickerts and studied with him at the Army-Navy YMCA Club.”

“On March 9, 1939, Uncle Bud earned a Black Belt in Judo and can be seen standing in a formal photo with dad, Rick Rickerts and Okazaki.”

From the taped interview: Question – How long did it take you to get your shodan? **“At nine classes a week it took me a little over a year.”**

- Known information indicates Professor Estes arrived in Hawaii in 1931. He worked with youngsters at a boy’s home for the Salvation Army, got married, had two children, got divorced and left the Salvation Army in 1935 or 36. Would Professor Estes have had the time to train in judo/jujitsu (nine classes a week) under Professor Okazaki in order to receive a shodan rank in just one year?

- If, according to Professor Estes, he started training under Professor Okazaki in 1931 and earned a shodan a year later, that would have been around 1932 or 1933.
- In 1932, Richard Rickerts, Curly Freedman, Charles Wagner, Harold McLean, Bob Glover and Denzel Muggy enrolled in the Kodenkan (Professor Okazaki's dojo). All of them were "haoles". In 1936 they graduated with instructor's diplomas. If Professor Estes had started in 1931 wouldn't he have been in the same class, or an earlier class, as these other early students of Professor Okazaki?
- Doesn't it seem reasonable that Professor Estes met Professor Okazaki through Curly Freedman, the man he was working for in 1935-36? This is confirmed by Burl Estes, the brother of Professor Estes, who went to Hawaii in 1938. Burl also worked for Curly Freedman and trained with his brother Bud and Professor Okazaki for a short period of time, earning a brown belt.

According to an article about Professor Bud Estes on the Danzan Ryu Homepage website by Professor George Arrington:

"Professor Estes studied with Professor Okazaki from late 1936 to 1939. His personal trainer at the Army Navy YMCA was Richard Rickerts."

According to the diary of Professor Richard Rickerts:

"October 16, 1938: Rickerts won a Mantel Clock as his first place winner's prize in a five man Sumo Contest. The next day he was in attendance as Professor Okazaki presented Bud Estes with a black obi. Estes was the first student of the Army & Navy YMCA to receive this honor since Rickerts and D. Muggy had been instructing."

NOTE: Rickerts and Muggy took over as instructors at the Army Navy YMCA after the death of Professor Harold McLean, September 23, 1937.

- According to Professor Rickerts' diary, Professor Estes was attending the Army Navy YMCA Club and earned his shodan while training there. Rickerts and Muggy were the instructors at the club. If Professor Estes had started his training in 1931, before Rickerts and Muggy, wouldn't Professor Estes have been one of the instructors at the Army Navy YMCA?
- If Professor Estes was the first student to earn a black belt at the Army Navy YMCA after the death of Professor Harold McLean (September 1937), wouldn't that indicate Professor Estes earned his black belt after that date?
- I have over 300 Danzan Ryu related photos taken in Hawaii between the early 1920s and late 1940s. I do not have any individual photos of Professor Estes or group photos of him with other DZR students or Professor Okazaki from the early 1930s. I have a photo of Professor Estes receiving his shodan diploma and him in a photo watching a demonstration at the Kodenkan dojo from the late 1930s.

- We have an abundance of conflicting information. Professor Estes said he earned his black belt in one year and he started in 1931. We also have information showing Professor Estes started in 1936 and earned his shodan in 1938. Which timeline is correct? We currently have no evidence showing Professor Estes trained under Professor Okazaki between 1931 and 1935.
- Even though Professor Estes never mentions it, but could it be possible that Professor Estes was also taught Danzan Ryu by other senior students of Professor Okazaki like Richard Rickerts and Denzel Muggy and at a dojo other than the Kodenkan?
- I have not seen a copy of a Danzan Ryu shodan or nidan certificate for Professor Estes. I do have a copy of his “rank three” sandan certificate which is dated in 1943. It was sent to him 4 years after he left Hawaii. I do not know of anyone who has a copy his shodan and nidan certificate.
- I have seen a copy of the Mokuroku presented by Professor Okazaki to Professor Estes, dated March 8, 1939.

From the taped interview: Question – Did Professor Okazaki require a notebook? **“You bet he required a notebook. You’d better have one. You’d never get a promotion unless you had a notebook.”**

- I have reviewed a copy of the personal notebook of Professor Bud Estes. The first entry in the notebook is May 1, 1936. Is it reasonable to assume that if Professor Estes was promoted to shodan in 1932 or 1933, he would have had to have a notebook at that time and not one that was dated May 1, 1936?
 - The date of May 1, 1936, on the personal notebook of Professor Estes, supports the dates listed in Professor Richard Rickerts' diary and Professor George Arrington's webpage article.
- The information I have researched indicates that it is most likely that Professor Estes did not start his Danzan Ryu training until 1935 or 1936 and that not all of his training was directly under Professor Okazaki.

To date I have not been able to verify the claims made by Professor Estes that he started his training in Danzan Ryu under Professor Okazaki in 1931 or him being awarded the rank of shodan in one year after that time.

#4: Did Professor Henry S. Okazaki ever come over to the United States mainland?

“Yes, he been over before that, but not after we’d started the schools here. He was over here before I ever saw him.”

- Professor Estes said he arrived in Hawaii in 1931. Using his above statement, does that mean Professor Okazaki came to the mainland prior to 1931?
- I have not been able to locate any historical writings, documents or evidence indicating that Professor Okazaki came to the mainland prior to 1931 or at anytime during his life.
- If Professor Okazaki had come to the mainland, wouldn't that have been a significant event that he would most likely have mentioned this to his students and would have been written about?
- For what reason would have Professor Okazaki traveled to the United States mainland prior to 1931?
- The Danzan Ryu Professors I have talked with, from several DZR organizations, have never heard of any stories about Professor Okazaki ever coming to the United States mainland.

To date I have not been able to verify the claim made by Professor Estes that Professor Okazaki came to the United States mainland.

#5: How did Professor Bud Estes meet Professor Okazaki?

“Just a few weeks after I landed in Honolulu, I was walking down the street one day and saw a couple of guys sneaking up on an old man, and one of them behind him had a club in his hand. It turned out that the one in front had a knife. I didn't see the knife but I did see the guy with the club. I thought that wasn't quite kosher so I clobbered the guy and turned around to help the old man. He was standing there smiling with his hands folded watching me. The guy that was in front who tried to attack him with a knife was lying down on the curb with all the skin off one side of his face where he had hit the curb. He smiled at me and said; you know judo? I said yes I know judo. Well I was a smart aleck young fellow then, and that thought I could do anything. I thought that I had done a pretty good job clobbering that one boy. So he said, well I teach jujitsu and if you would like to come to my gym I would like to introduce you to my class.”

Taken from a website article:

“While walking down the streets of Honolulu one evening, Bud observed several young tough attacking what seemed to be an old Japanese gentleman. Believing in his skills and thinking he should equalize the situation he took on one of the tough, but found the rest were taken down easily by the old man. Upon witnessing the quick and easy manner this Japanese introduced a “new discipline” to his attackers, young Bud laid aside his black belt, and entered the school where the Japanese American gentleman taught, the Kodenkan, located at 810 S. Hotel Street; Honolulu, Hawaii.”

According to the article written by Burl Estes:

“Uncle Bud left the Salvation Army in 1935 or 36 and went to work for a Curley Friedman. According to dad, Curley Friedman introduced Uncle Bud to judo. A black belt instructor himself, he introduced Uncle Bud to Henry Okazaki and they started working out at Okazaki’s dojo. Uncle Bud also met Rick Rickerts and studied with him at the Army-Navy YMCA Club.”

- Did Professor Estes first meet Professor Okazaki during a street attack in 1931 or in 1935 when he was introduced by Curly Freedman?
- When Professor Estes arrived in Hawaii in 1931 he would have been around 22 years old. Professor Okazaki would have been around 41 years old. I have seen photos of Professor Okazaki from the early 1930s. He did not appear to me to be an “old man.”
- If Professor Estes did earn a judo black belt, it would have been before he received the gunshot wound to his arm. Professor Estes would have been 16 years old at the time. There is no evidence or documentation that Professor Estes did any judo training after his gunshot wound.
- If Professor Estes did earn a judo black belt in 2 years, there was 6 years between the time he stopped training to the time he intervened to assist Professor Okazaki. How much judo would Professor Estes would have been able to remember and effectively use? Enough to subdue an armed attacker?

To date I have not been able to verify the claim made by Professor Estes that he first met Professor Okazaki during a street attack in 1931.

#6: How well did Professor Estes actually know Professor Okazaki?

QUESTION: How old was Professor Okazaki when he died? **“Around seventy, or maybe seventy five”**

“We had earned enough money that way to bring him over, and then he caught something. I don’t know, pneumonia or something, and passed away before he could come over. He never did get over here again.”

- Professor Okazaki was born in 1890. He would have been 49 years old when Professor Estes left Hawaii in 1939. Professor Okazaki died in 1951 at the age of 61.
- Is it reasonable to believe for a person who knew Professor Okazaki as well as Professor Estes claims to have that he would have known the age of his sensei when he passed as well as the cause of his death?

- According to information published by Professor George Arrington, Professor Okazaki suffered a stroke in December of 1948 that left him partially paralyzed. This severely reduced his teaching ability and much of this was done by his instructors. He suffered another stroke in 1950 which put him in the hospital. At 4:00 PM on July 12, 1951, Henry Seishiro Okazaki died from the effects of a third stroke and atherosclerosis.

#7: Did Professor Bud Estes receive his Yodan from Professor Okazaki in 1943 and did he receive a Kaidensho certificate in 1946?

Taken from a website article:

“In 1943, Bud received his Yodan from Master Okazaki. In 1946 Master Okazaki awarded him a Kaidensho (teaching license).”

Taken from, *Danzan Ryu An Unbroken Tradition*, Second Edition – January 1991

“In 1943, Bud received his Yodan from Master Okazaki. In 1946, Master Okazaki awarded him a kaidensho (teaching license).”

Note: This information was provided by Professor Tom Ball.

- How many Danzan Ryu people have heard this story? At this time I can not verify if this story came directly from Professor Estes or someone else. I have personally heard this story told by more than one AJJF Professor.
- We know Professor Estes received a Mokuroku from Professor Okazaki in 1939. This is an established fact supported by valid documentation.
- There is no evidence at this time to indicate that Professor Estes returned to Hawaii prior to the death of Professor Okazaki in 1951, so any rank he received from Professor Okazaki must have been sent by mail or hand carried over from Hawaii.
- Professor Estes received a Rank Three (sandan) certificate from Professor Okazaki. The certificate is dated – August 21, 1943. The certificate was issued by the American Jujitsu Institute of Hawaii and is signed by Professor Okazaki as the AJI vice-president. Juan Gomez signed as the “instructor”, not Professor Okazaki. This is an established fact supported by valid documentation. There is no validated evidence showing Professor Estes ever receiving a yodan certificate from Professor Okazaki.
- Around 1990, Professor Tom Ball planned, designed and made a fraudulent kaidensho certificate naming Professor Bud Estes as the recipient of the certificate. The fraudulent kaidensho certificate is dated 1946. This act of fraud has been proven and is supported by valid documentation and evidence.

- Were those who wrote the website articles and the *Danzan Ryu Jujitsu An Unbroken Tradition* influenced by the fraudulent kaidensho certificate made by Professor Ball?
- At this time I have no evidence or documents showing that Professor Okazaki issued any kaidensho certificates in 1946.

To date I have not been able to verify the claims that Professor Estes had received his yodan rank and kaidensho certificate from Professor Okazaki.

#8: Did Professor Bud Estes work for the Federal Bureau of Narcotics?

Taken from a four page article written about Professor Bud Estes in the summer 1991 issue of the Kiai Echo, *A Tough Act to Follow*:

“Salvation Army officers may only marry Salvation Army officers. Bud married and had two children, a son and a daughter. The marriage was not to last however. Bud sought a divorce. His supervisors in the Salvation Army opposed his divorce – this led to Bud leaving the church, and taking a job as a foreman on a pineapple plantation.”

“One day, an agent from the Federal Bureau of Narcotics (the forerunner of today’s Drug Enforcement Administration) came to Bud and told him that some Chinese workers were smuggling opium into Hawaii through the plantation. Since Bud knew both the people and the terrain. He suggested that he plan an ambush to catch them. The mission was a success, and Bud was offered a job with the F.B.N.”

“For the next five years, Bud was a narcotics agent in Hawaii. He often performed dangerous undercover assignments, and was nearly killed several times. He was shot, and stabbed as part of his ‘new job’. He also was forced to kill men in order to save his own life, on more than one occasion.”

Taken from page 52, *Danzan Ryu An Unbroken Tradition*, Second Edition – January 1991:

“He left the ministry and soon became a Federal Bureau of Narcotics undercover agent. He was often sent on dangerous assignments requiring the application of his jujitsu techniques. In one case, while arresting drug smugglers, he was attacked with a large machete with a blade of about 2 ½ inches wide. Although Bud used a side pivot to avoid the stab, the blade caught his skin and sliced it. The wound was superficial and Bud proceeded with the arrest. The rest of the smugglers gave up without a fight.”

Note: This information was provided by Professor Tom Ball.

Taken from a two page article written about Professor Bud Estes in the summer 1991 issue of the Kiai Echo, Professor *Bud Estes*:

“When Professor Estes served on the Bureau of Narcotics, he would often be placed in dangerous situations and would have to rely on his training. One such instance found him bound and held captive in a basement room. One man was guarding him, awaiting the return of his cohorts. The man was nervous so Prof. kept taunting him, making him even more agitated. Finally, the man lost his cool, pulled his gun, and struck it in Prof’s stomach. Prof. knocked the gun aside with his body, then kneed him in the chest, rendering him unconscious and escaped.”

- Professor Estes never mentions in his 1979 taped interview that he worked as a foreman for a pineapple plantation, worked for the Federal Bureau of Narcotics for five years, that he was shot and stabbed and he had killed men. Wouldn’t one believe that this is important information to share in his taped interview?
- What kind of job would have Professor Estes had with the Federal Bureau of Narcotics for the five years if he had worked for them in the mid-late 1930s?
 - The Harrison Narcotics Tax Act of 1914 – the actual criminalization of drugs did not take place until the mid 1930s.
 - The Federal Bureau of Narcotics was established June 4, 1930.
 - The Opium Poppy Act 1937.
 - Marijuana Tax Act - 1947
- Information has been provided that indicates Professor Estes had gone to work for Curly Freedman after he left the Salvation Army in 1935. If he had worked for the Federal Bureau of Narcotics for five years, that would put his timeline up to 1940. Professor Estes left Hawaii in 1939.
- In the taped interview, Professor Estes said he trained in nine classes a week. Could have Professor Estes been able to do this while he was working for Curly Freedman and the Federal Bureau of Narcotics?
- I worked as a sworn law enforcement officer for 30 years. Two of those years I worked deep undercover. Once an officer is injured (shot or stabbed) they are normally removed from that assignment – even back in the 1930s.
- If an undercover officer is involved in a shooting, especially if he kills someone, the officer is removed from that assignment or transferred a long distance away. His cover would have been blown! Hawaii was not heavily populated in the mid 1930s and it would have been difficult for a “haole” to worker undercover for any length of time.

- I have made inquiries with people I know who have worked for the Drug Enforcement Administration. They said that even back in the 1930s, people were not selected to join the Federal Bureau of Narcotics right off the street. There was a testing and selection process to become a Federal Agent with the Treasury Department, and they went through some kind of formal training before becoming an agent and going undercover. Why would Professor Estes have been exempted from this?
- I have been researching Hawaiian newspaper articles from the mid 1930s. I have been looking for incidents of Federal Bureau of Narcotics agents involved in shooting incidents where people were injured or killed. So far I have found no such articles. I will keep searching.
- If the stories told about Professor Estes working as an undercover federal agent are in fact false, then this is looked upon by the law enforcement community as “Stolen Valor” and it dishonors the memory those men and women who have gone into harm's way to protect and serve their community and nation.

To date I have not been able to verify if Professor Estes ever worked as a foreman at a pineapple plantation or had worked as an undercover agent for the Federal Bureau of Narcotics. I have not been able to verify if he had been shot or stabbed and if he had killed anyone as a Federal Agent.

I have listen to the 1979 audio tape of Professor Estes numerous times. I have had a transcript make of the tape and I have read it several times. A copy of the transcript is available on request. The question that must be asked is, why would Professor Estes tell such stories about his life and martial arts experience if they were false? Why would someone knowingly allow these false stories to be taped by several people in the audience?

Is it possible that Professor Estes believed it was necessary for him to tell these stories about himself and Professor Okazaki in order to compete with the other martial art systems that were becoming popular in the 1960s and 1970s?

Starting around the mid 1960s we began to experience a sudden increase of high profile Japanese, Korean and Chinese martial arts and instructors, as well as some hybrid American styles. Some of these included:

- Ed Parker, Al Tracy, Jim Tracy, Will Tracy - *Kenpo Karate*
- Adriano Emperado, Joe Halbuna, Charles Gaylord, Tony Ramos, Aleju Reyes – *Kajukenbo*
- Bruce Lee – *Jeet Kune Do*
- Jhoon Rhee – *Tae Kwon Do*

- Takayuki Kubota – *Gosoku Ryu Karate*
- Bong Soo Han – *Hapkido*
- Fumio Demura – *Kobudo*
- Stephen Hayes - Ninjutsu

Many of these martial art instructors were very high profile and became very popular with the growing martial arts community. Many of these instructors, and their arts, were appearing on TV, in movies and in martial arts magazines like *Black Belt Magazine*. Teaching martial arts become very profitable and commercial martial art schools began to spring up in large cities and small towns across the country.

Danzan Ryu Jujitsu was virtually an unknown martial art during this time. The few articles about Danzan Ryu that did appear in *Black Belt Magazine* were over shadowed by many of these “newer” systems, and instructors, that drew the of attention of mainstream martial art enthusiasts. Danzan Ryu had no high profile instructors who appeared on TV, or in movies, and were not profiled on the cover of *Black Belt Magazine*. Danzan Ryu did not have the appeal to the general martial arts community like the other systems and instructors did. Even today, Danzan Ryu is not well known in the general martial arts community – both inside and outside of the United States.

Professor Estes was also competing with other black belt disciples of Professor Okazaki who had more years of martial arts experience and training with Professor Okazaki than he did. Some of these Danzan Ryu black belts would have been:

- Wally Jay
- Sig Kufferath
- Joe Holck
- Jack Wheat
- Sam Luke
- Tony Gonzales
- Francisco Limbago

Is it possible that Professor Estes had False Memory Syndrome (FMS)? I did not know Professor Estes well enough to come to this conclusion but the possibility remains. Those who had spent a lot of time with Professor Estes, and knew him well, might be able to comment more extensively on this possibility.

See *Wikipedia*: False Memory Syndrome (FMS) describes a condition in which a person’s identity and relationships are affected by memories which are factually incorrect but are strongly believed.

Refer to *Science Daily*, November 8, 2007: *Why False Memories Sometimes Feel Like They Are Absolutely True.*

If anyone has any information that might help prove or disprove the possibility that Professor Estes may have had FMS, please contact the author with your information for the purpose of historical accuracy.

Another important question that remains to be answered is why has it taken over 30 years after the death of Professor Estes for the discrepancies in these stories to come into question? As you have read, it is not a matter of one discrepancy but a number of them. These discrepancies have not been hidden away. It has been there in plain view since 1979. Several people have copies of the 1979 audio tape of Professor Estes. Is it possible that some of the Professors of the AJJF have known about these discrepancies but have just chosen to ignore them? There are AJJF Professors and AJJF Senior Black Belts who are still telling these stories about Professor Estes to others as if they are accurate and true. Maybe this is just a simple oversight on the part of these people or maybe is it a cover up that no one wants to talk about. Only the Professors of the American Judo & Jujitsu Federation can answer this question. After all, they did actively cover up the fraudulent Prof. Bud Estes Kaidensho certificate made by Professor Tom Ball.

Unfortunately, there will always be those few people, regardless of the evidence and facts presented, who will not believe or admit that it is possible that Professor Estes was not being truthful about some of his life stories and his martial arts experience. There will never be enough evidence or documents for them to change their minds.

Danzan Ryu Jujitsu belongs only to its founder, Professor Henry Seishiro Okazaki. We are merely the caretakers of his ryu. All AJJF Professors, senior black belts and school heads have a duty and responsibility to protect, preserve and perpetuate the known teachings of Professor Okazaki, and his ryu, to the best of their ability. This also includes accepting the most accurate and correct history of the AJJF and its four founding fathers. The truth must always prevail.

We owe it to Professor Okazaki, the founding fathers of the AJJF and the Danzan Ryu community, to perpetuate the most correct and accurate history of the ryu. As responsible caretakers of the ryu, we also owe it to the current and future members of the AJJF, and the greater Danzan Ryu community, to teach and support the most correct and accurate history of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu.

This is an investigative research paper. The author realizes the subject matter may be controversial to some of the readers. For the purpose of historical accuracy, the author welcomes constructive comments and evidence based corrections and additions to this paper. The author may be contacted at: cop2rn@aol.com

May 25, 2015