

### Contemporary Seniors 3: As Memory Serves

There are several senior martial artists who I have trained with, beside, or under, albeit for a short time, separate articles about whom, I have not as yet created. That is not a judgment of their worthiness or my respect for them, but that, since they are still active, I hope I can still train with or beside them.

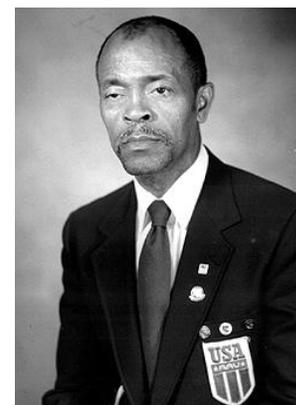
Walter Mattson, the well-known Uechi stylist often confused with George Mattson although there is no relation, operated his first Uechi school above my uncle's food market in Natick, MA. He then moved his dojo to much larger quarters three miles away in Framingham, just before I opened my Natick dojo, around the corner from his first school. I seemed to be chasing him because 10 years later, my dojo moved to Framingham and we connected as respectful neighbors, even referring students to each other. He was one of several contemporaries who were kind enough to help me by appearing in my local TV project, *Bushido-kai's Beyond Karate*.



I took a seminar with John Sells & Rudy Crosswell, two of the most senior Shito-ryu people (thanks to my friend Gary McGuiness). They were not inclined to share notes, since they were concentrating on teaching mostly Shito stylists, but I remember that they their teachings were not too dissimilar from my own.



I took one seminar with George E. Anderson (founder of the U.S. Ju-jitsu Federation and WUKO's first V.P) and Thomas LaPuppet (the first Black martial artist to enter the Black Belt Hall of Fame. According to *Black Martial Artists* website his successful tournament career in the late 1960s, included winning the All-American karate tournament on several occasions. A black belt in Karate, Jujitsu and Kenpo.) LaPuppet was accompanying Anderson Sensei who had me help out with the aiki portion his seminar.



Actually not seniors, but respected nevertheless, are the following:

- Melissa Soalt (Dr. Ruthless) is well known for her career in Model Mugging and other women's self-protection endeavors. We actually had a coffee-date once and then became friends.

- I met "Jimmy" Jwing-ming Yang at one of Richard Byrne's seminars. He is almost exactly my contemporary, my having been in martial arts only 1 year longer than he. From his Chin-na background he suggested a detail for the Aikido lock Nikyo that I had not previously recognized.

• Ian Cyrus has been a friend since the time he inherited a Korean system called Choson-do. He has since developed his own Hapkido-style system. Ian is well read, knowledgeable, and willing to share.

I probably have neglected a few important names, and for that I apologize. Fifty-plus years allows one to meet a lot of people, some of whom like Bob Bowles, George Dillman, and Billy Blanks, I met just briefly; others of whom I trained with and, although the training may have been only a day or a few sessions, I always came away wiser and grateful for the experience.

